

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

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**KAMI AHRENS**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 23A-UI-05151-AW-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**TOP SHAPE GYM LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 12/04/22**  
**Claimant: Respondent (1R)**

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Iowa Code § 96.7(2)(a)(6) – Appeal from the Statement of Charges

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Employer filed an appeal from the Statement of Charges dated May 9, 2023 for the first quarter of 2023. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on June 7, 2023. Claimant did not participate. Employer participated through Michelle Fischer, Accountant. No exhibits were admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUES:**

Whether employer's protest is timely.  
Whether employer's appeal from the statement of charges is timely.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

Claimant filed an initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective December 4, 2022; claimant indicated her reason for filing was that she was separated from employment with Moxie Solar. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) notified employer of the claim through the State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES). Employer had recently switched from receiving notices via mail to receiving them electronically through SIDES. Employer elected to have electronic notices from SIDES sent via email to Michelle Fischer, Accountant. Fischer did not receive the Notice of Claim.

On May 9, 2023, IWD mailed employer a Statement of Charges for the first quarter of 2023. The Statement of Charges included charges for benefits paid to claimant. The administrative record does not include a Statement of Charges for the fourth quarter of 2022. Employer received the May 9, 2023 Statement of Charges; this was employer's first notice of the claim. Employer appealed the Statement of Charges on May 17, 2023.

Employer protests the claim on the basis that it is claimant's supplemental part-time employer and claimant has worked for the same hours and wages as contemplated at hire. The issues of whether claimant is totally, partially or temporarily unemployed; whether claimant is working for the same hours and wages for employer; whether claimant was able to and available for work;

and whether employer's account should be charged have not been the subject of an initial investigation and determination by IWD.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes:

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2) provides:

2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission was due to division error or misinformation or to delay or other action of the United States postal service.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(6) provides (emphasis added):

2. Contribution rates based on benefit experience.
  - a. (6) Within forty days after the close of each calendar quarter, the department shall notify each employer of the amount of benefits charged to the employer's account during that quarter. The notification shall show the name of each individual to whom benefits were paid, the individual's social security number, and the amount of benefits paid to the individual. *An employer which has not been notified as provided in section 96.6, subsection 2, of the allowance of benefits to an individual, may within thirty days after the date of mailing of the notification appeal to the department for a hearing to determine the eligibility of the individual to receive benefits.* The appeal shall be referred to an administrative law judge for hearing and the employer and the individual shall receive notice of the time and place of the hearing.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.4 provides, in relevant part:

2. An appeal from an initial decision concerning the allowance or denial of benefits shall be filed, by mail, facsimile, or e-mail, online, or in person, not later than ten calendar days, as determined by the postmark or the date stamp after the decision was mailed to the party at its last-known address and shall state the following:
  - a. The name, address and social security number of the claimant;
  - b. A reference to the decision from which appeal is taken; and,
  - c. The grounds upon which the appeal is based.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a contributory employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 30 days from the mailing date of the quarterly statement of benefit charges.

4. Also notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a reimbursable employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 15 days of the mailing date of the quarterly billing of benefit charges.

Employer filed its appeal of the Statement of Charges mailed May 9, 2023 for the first quarter of 2023 prior to the appeal deadline. Employer did not receive the Notice of Claim. The May 9, 2023 Statement of Charges was employer's first notice of the claim. Accordingly, the matter shall be remanded to IWD for a hearing to determine claimant's eligibility to receive benefits.

**DECISION:**

Employer filed a timely appeal of the Statement of Charges and did not receive the Notice of Claim. The May 9, 2023 Statement of Charges for the first quarter of 2023 is **AFFIRMED** pending determination of whether claimant is eligible to receive benefits.

**REMAND:**

The issues of whether claimant is totally, partially or temporarily unemployed; whether claimant is working for the same hours and wages for a supplemental part-time employer; whether claimant was able to and available for work; and whether employer's account should be charged are remanded to IWD Benefits Bureau for an initial investigation and determination.



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Adrienne C. Williamson  
Administrative Law Judge

June 13, 2023  
Decision Dated and Mailed

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**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

**AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:**

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

**UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:**

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.