

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

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**LUZ ESPARZA**  
Claimant

**NORTHWEST IOWA HOSPITAL CORP**  
Employer

**APPEAL 22A-UI-18162-CS-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 07/10/22  
Claimant: Respondent (1R)**

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Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest  
Iowa Code § 96.7(8)b(4) – Application for Redetermination  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.43(9)a – Combined Wage Claim Relief of Charges

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On October 18, 2022, Northwest Iowa Hospital Corp. (employer) filed an appeal from the notice of reimbursable charges dated October 15, 2022, reference 04, for the third quarter of 2022. A hearing was held on November 17, 2022, pursuant to due notice. Luz Esparza (claimant) did not participate. The employer participate through Human Resources Business Partner, Angela Nicodemus. The department's Exhibits D1 through D3 were admitted into the record. Administrative notice was taken of claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

**ISSUES:**

- I. Was the employer's protest timely?
- II. Did the employer timely appeal the notice of reimbursable charges?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant separated from employment on April 14, 2021. Claimant initially filed for benefits with an effective date of April 25, 2021. During that claim year claimant was determined to be ineligible for benefits and the employer's account was not subject to charge. (Exhibit D01). Claimant filed for benefits again with an effective date of July 10, 2022. A notice of claim is not located in claimant's file or in the SIDES system. The employer did not receive a notice of claim for the claimant for the July 10, 2022 claim year.

The first notice of claimant receiving benefits was the receipt of the notice of reimbursable benefit charges mailed October 15, 2022 for the third quarter of 2022. The employer filed its appeal to the notice of reimbursable charges on October 18, 2022.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes employer's protest of the Notice of Claim is timely and employer's appeal from the Notice of Reimbursable Benefit Charges is timely.

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 Code section 96.7(8)b(4) provides:

8. Financing benefits paid to employees of nonprofit organizations.

b. Reimbursements for benefits paid in lieu of contributions shall be made in accordance with the following:

(4) The amount due specified in a bill from the department is conclusive unless, not later than fifteen days following the date the bill was mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the nonprofit organization, the nonprofit organization files an application for redetermination with the department setting forth the grounds for the application. The department shall promptly review the amount due specified in the bill and shall issue a redetermination. The redetermination is conclusive on the nonprofit organization unless, not later than thirty days after the redetermination was mailed or otherwise delivered to the last known address of the nonprofit organization, the nonprofit organization files an appeal to the district court pursuant to subsection 5.

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.

Employer did not receive a notice of claim for claimant. The file appears to show a notice of claim was not created for this employer. As a result, the employer did not have the opportunity to protest claimant's eligibility. The employer's first notice of claimant's eligibility was the notice of reimbursable charges for the third quarter of 2022 that was mailed October 15, 2022. The employer timely appealed the notice of reimbursable charges on October 18, 2022. The issues

of whether claimant is eligible for benefits based upon her separation from employment and whether employer should be charged for those benefits are remanded to the Benefits Bureau of IWD for an initial investigation and decision.

**DECISION:**

Employer filed a timely appeal of the Notice of Reimbursable Benefit Charges. The Notice of Reimbursable Benefit Charges mailed October 15, 2022 for the third quarter of 2022 is affirmed pending determination of the issue on remand.

**REMAND:**

The issues of whether claimant is eligible for benefits based upon her separation from employment and whether employer should be charged for those benefits are remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for an initial investigation and decision.



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Carly Smith  
Administrative Law Judge

November 21, 2022  
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**

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 adquiriera 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.