

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

LIAM O OBRIEN

Claimant

PDG ENTERPRISES LLC

Employer

APPEAL 22A-UI-17619-LJ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/08/20

Claimant: Respondent (4)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

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

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.43(9)a – Combined Wage Claim Relief of Charges

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On February 12, 2021, PDG Enterprises, LLC (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated February 9, 2021, reference 00, for the fourth quarter of 2020. A hearing was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, November 28, 2022, pursuant to due notice. Appeal numbers 22A-UI-17619-LJ-T and 22A-UI-18598-LJ-T were heard together and created one record. Claimant Liam O. O'Brien did not participate. Employer PDG Enterprises, LLC participated through the testimony of Kathy Kessler, Owner; and Peter Kessler was available and observed but did not testify. The department's Exhibits D1 through D4 were admitted into the record.

ISSUES:

Did the employer file a timely appeal from the statement of charges?

Can the employer be relieved of charges on a combined wage claim?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Liam O. O'Brien (claimant) filed a combined wage claim for unemployment insurance benefits in the state of New York effective March 8, 2020. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) mailed a notice of wage transfer to the employer's address of record on March 24, 2020. (Exhibit D-1) The notice of wage transfer states the employer must file a protest within in ten days to have their account relieved of charges.

The employer did not receive the notice of wage transfer at the time it was mailed. The employer's first notice that the claimant had even filed for benefits or that its account was being charged for any benefits received by him was the receipt of the statement of charges mailed November 9, 2020, for the third quarter of 2020. (Exhibit D-2) The employer sent an email to the Appeals Bureau within thirty days of that statement of charges requesting additional documents and stating an intent to appeal. No appeal was set up at that time.

Next, the employer received the statement of charges mailed February 9, 2021, for the fourth quarter of 2020. (Exhibit D-3) After receiving this statement of charges, the employer sent the Appeals Bureau an email to inquire about the status of its previous appeal and its request for additional information. (Exhibit D-4) IWD employee Veronica Young informed the Kesslers that she would set up an appeal promptly. No appeal was set up at that time. Over eighteen months later, in the course of addressing other matters, the Kesslers learned that this matter was still unresolved. Therefore, they sent another email in late September 2022, again requesting resolution. (Exhibit D-4) An appeal was set up for hearing at that time.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the employer filed a timely appeal from the statement of charges. Whether benefits are allowed will be determined by the state of New York, where the claimant filed the claim; regardless, the employer's account in the state of Iowa shall not be charged.

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(2)a(6) provides:

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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-23.43(9)(a) and (b) provide:

Combined wage claim transfer of wages.

a. Iowa employers whose wage credits are transferred from Iowa to an out-of-state paying state under the interstate reciprocal benefit plan as provided in Iowa Code section 96.20 will be liable for charges for benefits paid by the out-of-state paying state. No reimbursement so payable shall be charged against a contributory employer's account for the purpose of Iowa Code section 96.7, unless wages so transferred are sufficient to establish a valid Iowa claim, and such charges shall not exceed the amount that would have been charged on the basis of a valid Iowa claim. However, an employer who is required by law or by election to reimburse the trust fund will be liable for charges against the employer's account for benefits paid by another state as required in Iowa Code section 96.8(5), regardless of whether the Iowa wages so transferred are sufficient or insufficient to establish a valid Iowa claim. Benefit payments shall be made in accordance with the claimant's eligibility under the paying state's law. Charges shall be assessed to the employer which are based on benefit payments made by the paying state.

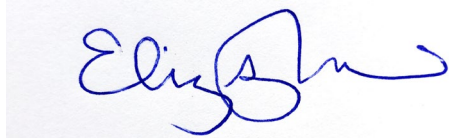
b. The Iowa employer whose wage credits have been transferred and who has potential liability will be notified that the wages have been transferred, the state to which they have been transferred, and the mailing address to which a protest of potential charges may be mailed. This protest must be postmarked or received by the department within ten days of the date on the notice to be considered as a timely protest of charges. If the protest from either the reimbursable or contributory employer justifies relief of charges, charges shall go to the balancing account.

The employer filed the appeal to the statement of charges, the first notice it had that its account had not been relieved of charges, within thirty days making the appeal timely. Additionally, the employer did not receive the notice of wage transfer and therefore it could not respond to that document in a timely manner.

The claimant's qualification and eligibility shall be determined by the state of New York, where the claim was filed.

DECISION:

The February 9, 2021, reference 00, statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2020 is modified in favor of the appellant, which will appear as a credit to the employer's account on a future statement of charges. The employer has filed a timely appeal from that statement of charges. The account of the employer shall be relieved of charges based on benefits paid by another state. The claimant's qualification and eligibility shall be determined by the state of New York, where the claim was filed.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge

December 1, 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
4th 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.