

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

CYNTHIA L NEWCOMB
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-11205-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 11-29-09
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.4(4) – Monetary Eligibility and Subsequent Benefit Year
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed a timely appeal from the July 27, 2010 (reference 01) decision that denied benefits because of a lack of at least \$250.00 in insured wages during or after the prior claim year. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on September 25, 2010. Claimant participated. Claimant's Exhibit A was entered and received into the record.

ISSUES:

The issue is whether claimant earned insured wages of \$250.00 or more during or after the previous benefit year.

Did the claimant file a timely appeal?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant did not earn at least \$250.00 in insured wages during or subsequent to the prior claim year beginning November 30, 2008.

The claimant's appeal was late because she did not understand the decision and could not reach anyone at Iowa Workforce Development to help her with her questions until August 10, 2010 at which time she filed her appeal.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the claimant's appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is.

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 provides:

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. The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of section 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to section 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 10, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to section 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". Unless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after notification was mailed to the claimant's last known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance with the decision. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The claimant did not have an opportunity to appeal the fact-finder's decision because the decision was not received. Without notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973). Therefore, the appeal shall be accepted as timely.

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant is not eligible to receive benefits during the subsequent benefit year.

Iowa Code § 96.4-4 provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

4. The individual has been paid wages for insured work during the individual's base period in an amount at least one and one-quarter times the wages paid to the individual during that quarter of the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest; provided that the individual has been paid wages for insured work totaling at least three and five-tenths percent of the statewide average annual wage for insured work, computed for the preceding calendar year if the individual's benefit year begins on or after the first full week in July and computed for the second preceding calendar year if the individual's benefit year begins before the first full week in July, in that calendar quarter in the individual's base period in which the individual's wages were highest, and the individual has been paid wages for insured work totaling at least one-half of the amount of wages required under this subsection in the calendar quarter of the base period in which the individual's wages were highest, in a calendar quarter in the individual's base period other than the calendar quarter in which the individual's wages

were highest. The calendar quarter wage requirements shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of ten dollars.

If the individual has drawn benefits in any benefit year, the individual must during or subsequent to that year, work in and be paid wages for insured work totaling at least two hundred fifty dollars, as a condition to receive benefits in the next benefit year.

Because the claimant did not earn at least \$250.00 in insured wages during or subsequent to the claim year beginning November 30, 2008, she is not eligible to receive benefits during the current claim year beginning November 29, 2009.

DECISION:

The July 27, 2010 (reference 01) decision is affirmed. The claimant's appeal is timely. The claimant is not eligible to receive benefits during the current claim year beginning November 29, 2009.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/css