

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JULIE M JEPSON
Claimant

**LEWIS WEBSTER VAN WINKLE &
KNOSHAUG LLP**
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-01513-SC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 03/22/20
Claimant: Respondent (4)

Iowa Code Chapter 96 – Requalification
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(6) – Appeal from the Statement of Charges

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On November 13, 2020, Lewis, Webster, Van Winkel & Knoshaug LLP (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated November 9, 2020, reference 01, for the third quarter of 2020. A hearing was scheduled for February 23, 2021, pursuant to due notice. Julie M. Jepson (claimant) and the employer responded to the hearing notice instructions, but no hearing was held, as there was sufficient evidence in the appeal letter and administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

ISSUES:

Did the employer file a timely appeal from the statement of charges?
Has the claimant requalified for benefits since the separation?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant filed her claim for benefits effective March 22, 2020, and the weekly benefit amount is \$481. She separated from the employer on October 31, 2019, to accept other employment. The administrative record shows that after the separation, but before filing the claim for benefits, she earned more than \$4,810.00, or ten times the weekly benefit amount, in insured wages.

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) mailed a notice of claim to the employer's old address of record on March 30, 2020. The employer updated its address with IWD in March 2019 and did not receive that notice. The first notice of the claimant's claim for benefits was the receipt of the statement of charges mailed August 7, 2020, for the second quarter of 2020. The employer filed its appeal of that statement of charges on August 10. However, as all employers were relieved of charges that quarter and there was no adverse action to adjudicate, the appeal was sent to the Benefits Bureau for additional review and determination on the timeliness of the protest; however, no unemployment insurance decision was issued. The employer next received a statement of charges dated November 9, for the third quarter of 2020. The employer filed its appeal to that statement of charges on November 13.

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 and the claimant has requalified for benefits. Benefits are allowed and the employer's account 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.

The employer filed its appeal of the statement of charges within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law because it did not receive the notice of claim giving it an opportunity to protest the claimant's receipt of benefits chargeable to its account. The employer filed the appeal to the statement of charges within thirty days making the appeal timely. The claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation from this employer by earning ten times the weekly benefit amount in insured wages following the separation. See Iowa Code §§ 96.5(1)g and 96.5(2)a. Accordingly, benefits are allowed and the account of the employer shall not be charged.

DECISION:

The November 9, 2020, reference 01, statement of charges for the third 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, as the notice of claim was not received. The claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible. The account of the employer shall not be charged and a credit shall be issued on a future statement of charges.



Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

March 3, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

src/kmj