

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ZACK S. NIELAND
Claimant

ZEROREZ IOWA LLC
Employer

APPEAL 22A-UI-03633-JC-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 01/02/22
Claimant: Respondent (4)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest
Iowa Code Chapter 95 – Requalification

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer/appellant, Zerorez Iowa LLC., filed an appeal to the initial decision dated January 25, 2022 (reference 01) which allowed benefits and concluded employer failed to file a timely protest to the notice of claim. After proper notice, a telephone hearing was held on March 10, 2022. Claimant/respondent, Zack S. Nieland, did not participate. Employer participated through John Truex, president. Marino Ches attended as an observer. Department Exhibits 1-2 and Employer Exhibits A-B were admitted into evidence. Official notice was taken of the administrative records.

NOTE TO EMPLOYER: To become a SIDES E-Response participant, you may send an email to iwd-sidesinfo@iwd.iowa.gov. To learn more about SIDES, visit <http://info.uisides.org>.

ISSUES:

Did the employer file a timely protest?
Has the claimant requalified for benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant worked for this employer until July 3, 2021 when he quit the employment. Claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of January 2, 2022.

A notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on January 7, 2022. The notice of claim stated, "[a]s an employer of this claimant within the past 18 months from the effective date of claim, your account may receive charges based upon wages you have paid this claimant unless you provide Iowa Workforce Development with information justifying relief from such charges. Any benefits paid may result in a rate increase to your account." The notice of claim contained a due date of January 18, 2022 (Department Exhibit 1). Employer did receive the notice of claim. Employer filed its notice of protest to the claim on January 18, 2022 (Department Exhibit 1).

The administrative records reflect the claimant has requalified since separation with this employer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has filed a timely protest.

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. 871-24.8(2) provides:

Notifying employing units of claims filed, requests for wage and separation information, and decisions made.

24.8(2) Responding by employing units to a notice of the filing of an initial claim or a request for wage and separation information and protesting the payment of benefits.

a. The employing unit which receives a Form 65-5317, Notice of Claim, or Form 68-0221, Request for Wage and Separation Information, must, within ten days of the date of the notice or request, submit to the department wage or separation information that affects the individual's rights to benefits, including any facts which disclose that the individual separated from employment voluntarily and without good cause attributable to the employer or was discharged for misconduct in connection with employment.

b. The employing unit may protest the payment of benefits if the protest is postmarked within ten days of the date of the notice of the filing of an initial claim. In the event that the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the protest period is extended to the next working day of the department. If the employing unit has filed a timely report of facts that might adversely affect the individual's benefit rights, the report shall be considered as a protest to the payment of benefits.

c. If the employing unit protests that the individual was not an employee and it is subsequently determined that the individual's name was changed, the employing unit shall be deemed to have not been properly notified and the employing unit shall again be provided the opportunity to respond to the notice of the filing of the initial claim.

d. The employing unit has the option of notifying the department under conditions which, in the opinion of the employing unit, may disqualify an individual from receiving benefits. The notification may be submitted electronically.

(1) The Notice of Separation, Form 60-0154, must be postmarked or received before or within ten days of the date that the Notice of Claim, Form 65-5317, was mailed to the employer. In the event that the tenth day falls on Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the protest period is extended to the next working day of the department. If a claim for unemployment insurance benefits has not been filed, the Notice of Separation may be accepted at any time.

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

Date of submission and extension of time for payments and notices.

24.35(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.

a. For submission that is not within the statutory or regulatory period to be considered timely, the interested party must submit a written explanation setting forth the circumstances of the delay.

b. The division shall designate personnel who are to decide whether an extension of time shall be granted.

c. No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the division after considering the circumstances in the case.

d. If submission is not considered timely, although the interested party contends that the delay was due to division error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States postal service, the division shall issue an appealable decision to the interested party.

Employer presented sufficient evidence to establish it filed its appeal within the prescribed period to protest the claim (Department Exhibit 1). Therefore, the protest shall be accepted as timely.

The administrative law judge further concludes that the claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation from this employer. Accordingly, benefits are allowed and the account of the employer shall **not** be charged.

DECISION:

The January 25, 2022, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of the appellant. The employer has filed a timely protest and 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.



Jennifer L. Beckman
Administrative Law Judge
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March 28, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/mh