

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JENNIFER S BENSHOOF
Claimant

SHREE GANESH INC
Employer

APPEAL 20A-UI-10962-DB-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/17/20
Claimant: Respondent (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer/appellant filed an appeal from the September 2, 2020 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision which found that the employer's protest cannot be accepted because it was not timely. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on October 27, 2020. The claimant, Jennifer S. Benshoof, did not participate. The employer, Shree Ganesh Inc., participated through witness Amy Mortensen. Employer's Exhibit 1 was admitted. The administrative law judge took administrative notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

ISSUE:

Did the employer file a timely protest?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A Notice of Claim was mailed to the employer on May 22, 2020, with a response due date of June 1, 2020. See Exhibit 1. Ms. Mortensen completed the Employer Statement of Protest on May 26, 2020 and faxed it to Iowa Workforce Development that same day. See Exhibit 1. The employer filed the Statement of Protest before the due date provided.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the employer's protest is timely.

Iowa Code section 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 issuing the notice of the filing of the claim to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. All interested parties shall select a format as specified by the department to receive such notifications. 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, subsections 10 and 11, 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 issued, 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 portion of this Code section dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states that such an appeal must be filed within ten days after notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. *Beardslee v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979). The administrative law judge considers the reasoning and holding of that court in that decision to be controlling on this portion of that same Iowa Code section which deals with a time limit in which to file a protest after notification of the filing of the claim has been mailed.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(1) provides:

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

(1) Except as otherwise provided by statute or by division rule, any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document submitted to the division shall be considered received by and filed with the division:

a. If transmitted via the United States postal service on the date it is mailed as shown by the postmark, or in the absence of a postmark the postage meter mark of the envelope in which it is received; or if not postmarked or postage meter marked or if the mark is illegible, on the date entered on the document as the date of completion.

b. If transmitted by any means other than the United States postal service on the date it is received by the division.

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

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

(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 department 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.

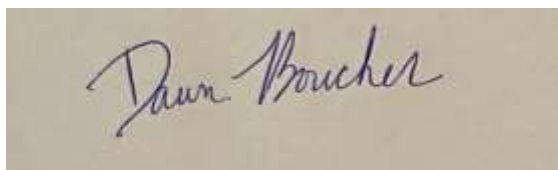
In this case, the employer filed a timely appeal prior to the June 1, 2020 due date. As such, the matter of the claimant's separation from employment shall be remanded to the Benefits Bureau for an initial investigation and determination.

DECISION:

The September 2, 2020 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The employer filed a timely protest response.

REMAND:

The issue of whether the claimant's separation from employment is disqualifying is remanded to the Benefits Bureau for an initial investigation and determination.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Boucher".

Dawn Boucher
Administrative Law Judge

October 29, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

db/sam