

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

EMERALD M WESTFALL
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-17947-LJ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

CASEYS MARKETING COMPANY
Employer

**OC: 04/03/22
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

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 August 31, 2022, employer Casey's Marketing Company filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated August 9, 2022 (reference 09) for the second quarter of 2022. A hearing was held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, pursuant to due notice. Claimant Emerald M. Westfall personally participated in the hearing. The employer participated through Marideliz Ortiz, Account Executive. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record, including the notice of claim and response available in the SIDES system; the unemployment insurance system dated April 27, 2022 (reference 01); the appeal decision 22A-UI-11580-AW-T; the above-mentioned statement of charges; and the above-mentioned appeal.

ISSUE:

Was the employer's appeal from the statement of charges timely and appropriate?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant opened her claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of April 3, 2022. The notice of claim was provided to the employer through the online SIDES system on April 9, 2022. The employer received that notice on April 15, and it responded with a protest on April 20, 2022. Next, the employer received the unemployment insurance decision dated April 27, 2022 (reference 01), that allowed benefits. The employer filed an appeal of that decision on May 6, 2022. The employer received a notice from the Appeals Bureau for an unemployment insurance appeal hearing scheduled for June 23, 2022. Ortiz does not believe Valeu NSN obtained a witness from the employer, and the employer did not participate in the appeal hearing. Administrative Law Judge Williamson issued a default decision on June 29, 2022, based on the employer's failure to appear for the hearing. See 22A-UI-11580-AW-T. The employer did not receive that decision. The next communication the employer received from IWD related to the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits was the August 9, 2022 (reference 00) statement of charges for the second quarter of 2022. The employer filed its appeal of that statement of charges on August 31, 2022.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge has not appropriately filed an appeal of the statement of charges.

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. [Emphasis added.]

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.

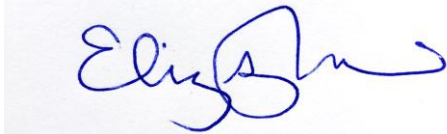
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a contributory employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 30 days from the mailing date of the quarterly statement of benefit 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.

(Emphasis added.) As pointed out in emphasis above, an employer may only appeal a claimant's eligibility for benefits through the quarterly statement of charges when it has not previously received notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits. In this case, the employer received several notices of claimant's claim, through the SIDES notice of claim followed by the reference 01 unemployment insurance decision. Even if the employer did not receive the administrative law judge's decisions following the appeal hearing, the appropriate remedy is not an appeal of the statement of charges. The record developed in this hearing illustrates that the employer has received notice of the claimant's filing of a valid claim for benefits, and it may not appeal the quarterly statement of charges.

DECISION:

The August 9, 2022 (reference 09) statement of charges for the second quarter of 2022 is affirmed.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge

November 10, 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.