IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

68-0157 (7-97) - 3091078 - EI

DONNA J CLARK 3244 - 223RD AVE MONTROSE IA 52639

MEYERS, CATHY MEYERS ANTIQUES 800 MAIN ST KEOKUK IA 52632 Appeal Number: 06A-UI-06893-MT

OC: 06/04/06 R: 04 Claimant: Respondent (4)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the *Employment Appeal Board*, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

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.

STATE CLEARLY

- 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.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)
,
(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed an appeal from a decision of a representative dated June 29, 2006, reference 02, which held claimant eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. After due notice, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for and held on June 26, 2006. Claimant participated. Employer participated by Cathy Meyers, Owner. Exhibits One and Two were admitted into evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: Claimant last worked for employer on May 10, 2005. Claimant quit for new and better employment. Claimant worked at the new job before being laid off.

Employer was out of town when the protest form arrived. Employer first received the protest form on June 26, 2006 and filed the protest on June 27, 2006.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The issue in this matter is whether claimant quit for good cause attributable to employer. The administrative law judge holds that the evidence has failed to establish that claimant voluntarily quit for good cause attributable to employer when claimant terminated the employment relationship because of better employment. However, claimant has requalified for benefits by working in and receiving wages at the better employment.

Iowa Code section 96.5-1-a provides:

An individual shall be disqualified for benefits:

- 1. Voluntary quitting. If the individual has left work voluntarily without good cause attributable to the individual's employer, if so found by the department. But the individual shall not be disqualified if the department finds that:
- a. The individual left employment in good faith for the sole purpose of accepting other or better employment, which the individual did accept, and the individual performed services in the new employment. Benefits relating to wage credits earned with the employer that the individual has left shall be charged to the unemployment compensation fund. This paragraph applies to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

871 IAC 24.28(5) provides:

Voluntary quit requalifications and previously adjudicated voluntary quit issues.

(5) The claimant shall be eligible for benefits even though the claimant voluntarily quit if the claimant left for the sole purpose of accepting an offer of other or better employment, which the claimant did accept, and from which the claimant is separated, before or after having started the new employment.

The issue in this matter is whether the employer's protest is timely. 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.

Employer's protest is timely as it was filed immediately upon receipt of actual notice of the claim.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated June 29, 2006, reference 02, is modified. Employer's protest is timely. Unemployment insurance benefits are allowed, provided claimant is otherwise eligible. Employer's account shall not be charged with benefits paid in this claim.

mdm\cs