

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

DANIEL J SOODSMA
Claimant

CENTER FRESH EGG FARM LLP
Employer

APPEAL 22A-UI-10058-LJ-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 12/12/21
Claimant: Respondent (4)

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 February 14, 2022, Center Fresh Egg Farm, L.L.P. (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated February 9, 2022, reference 01, for the fourth quarter of 2021. A hearing was held at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, May 20, 2022, pursuant to due notice. Daniel J. Soodsma (claimant) did participate. The employer did participate through Jamie Quiring, Senior Manager of Human Resources. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

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

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant separated from employment on April 3, 2021, to accept other employment. Subsequently, claimant was laid off from his new employment and filed a claim for benefits effective December 12, 2021. The notice of claim was provided to the employer through the online SIDES system on December 14, 2021. Quiring has no ability to access SIDES, and he has not had any access since he began employment in 2019. Therefore, the employer did not receive that notice. The first notice of the claimant's claim for benefits was the receipt of the statement of charges mailed February 9, 2022, for the fourth quarter of 2021. The employer filed its appeal of that statement of charges on February 14, 2022. At the same time, Quiring reached out to the agency and learned that notices of claim were sometimes being mailed to him and sometimes being routed through SIDES. Quiring now has all notices of claim mailed to him so that he can promptly respond.

The administrative record shows that after the separation, but before filing the claim for benefits, he earned more than \$5,310.00, or ten times the weekly benefit amount, in insured wages.

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.

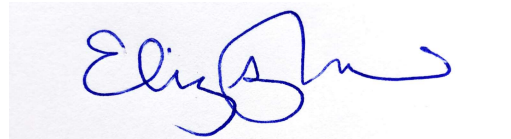
4. Also notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a reimbursable employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 15 days of the mailing date of the quarterly billing of benefit 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 February 9, 2022, reference 01, statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2021 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.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau

May 25, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

lj/lj