

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

RUSSELL R JORDAN
Claimant

BOB BOLAND FORD INC
Employer

APPEAL 24A-UI-07276-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 04/07/24
Claimant: Respondent (1R)**

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:

Bob Boland Ford Inc, the employer/appellant,¹ appealed the Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) August 9, 2024 Statement of Charges for the Second Quarter of 2024 that lists charges of \$2,328.00 to the employer's account for REGULAR (state) UI benefits IWD paid to Mr. Jordan. On August 15, 2024, the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, and Licensing (DIAL), UI Appeals Bureau mailed a notice of hearing to the employer and Mr. Jordan for a telephone hearing scheduled for September 3, 2024.

The administrative law judge held a telephone hearing on September 3, 2024. The employer participated in the hearing through Gail Logemann, office manager, and Ken Laubenthal, owner. John Hoffmeyer, attorney, and James Arenson, attorney, represented the employer. Mr. Jordan did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge admitted Department's Exhibits 1-3 and Employer's Exhibit 1 as evidence.

The administrative law judge concludes the employer has met the conditions for appealing the Statement of Charges since the employer protested Mr. Jordan's UI claim on time.

ISSUES:

Did the employer protest Mr. Jordan's UI claim on time?
Did the employer appeal from the Statement of Charges on time?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds: Mr. Jordan applied for REGULAR (state) UI benefits effective April 7, 2024. IWD sent the employer a Notice of Mr. Jordan's UI claim via mail on April 9, 2024 to the employer's address of record. The Notice contains a warning that the employer's protest response is due ten days from the initial Notice date and gave a due date of Friday, April 19, 2024.

¹ Appellant is the person or employer who appealed.

The employer received the Notice. The employer completed the Notice, signed it, and dated it April 11, 2024. The employer emailed the Notice to IWD on April 11.

Mr. Jordan reopened his UI claim effective April 28, 2024 and again effective July 21, 2024. On July 24, 2024, IWD sent the employer a Notice of Mr. Jordan's reopened UI claim via mail to the employer's address of record. The Notice contains a warning that the employer's protest response is due ten days from the initial Notice date and gave a due date of Monday, August 5, 2024.

The employer received this Notice. The employer completed the Notice, signed it, and dated it July 30, 2024. The employer mailed the Notice to IWD via the United States Postal Service (USPS), Priority Mail on August 1, 2024. Tracking from the USPS showed IWD received this Notice on August 4, 2024.

On August 9, 2024, IWD mailed the employer the Statement of Charges for the Second Quarter of 2024. The appeal deadline for the Statement is Saturday, September 8, 2024. If the appeal deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. So, the appeal deadline is extended to Monday, September 9, 2024. The employer received the Statement and appealed via mail with a USPS postmark date of August 12, 2024.

The employer intended to protest Mr. Jordan's UI claim because the employer terminated his employment on March 22, 2024.

After the employer appealed the Statement of Charges for the Second Quarter of 2024, IWD issued an August 16, 2024 (reference 01) UI decision. The decision found Mr. Jordan eligible for REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on how his job ended with this employer. The employer appealed this decision. The DIAL, UI Appeals Bureau has set up Appeal 24A-UI-07745 to address Mr. Jordan's eligibility for REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on how his job ended with this employer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes: The employer protested Mr. Jordan's UI claim on time and appealed the Statement of Charges on time.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in relevant 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 issuance of the notice of the filing of the claim 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.

Iowa Code section 96.7(2)a(6) provides that an employer who did not receive a Notice of Claim may appeal to determine the claimant's eligibility to receive UI benefits. But if the employer received Notice of the Claim and did not protest the claim, the employer cannot appeal the claimant's eligibility to receive UI benefits based on the employer receiving the Statement of Charges.

In this case, the employer protested the April 9, 2024 Notice of Claim for Mr. Jordan's UI claim on April 11, 2024, which was before the deadline listed in this Notice. The employer also protested the July 24, 2024 Notice of Claim for Mr. Jordan's UI claim on July 30, 2024, which was before the deadline listed in this Notice. The employer protested Mr. Jordan's UI claim on time.

The employer appealed the Statement of Charges for the Second Quarter of 2024 on August 12, 2024, which is before the deadline. The employer appealed the Statement on time.

The issue of Mr. Jordan's eligibility for REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on how his job ended with this employer or any current employer will be addressed in Appeal 24A-UI-07745. The issue of whether this employer's account should be charged should be remanded (sent back) to the IWD Benefits Bureau for investigation and/or any other necessary action.

DECISION:

The August 9, 2024 Statement of Charges for the Second Quarter of 2024 is AFFIRMED, PENDING REMAND. The employer protested the initial Notice of Claim for Mr. Jordan's UI claim, and the Notice of Claim for his reopened UI claim on time, and the employer appealed the Statement of Charges on time.

REMAND:

The issue of whether this employer's account should be charged for the REGULAR (state) UI benefits IWD paid to Mr. Jordan is REMANDED (sent back) to the IWD Benefits Bureau for investigation and/or any necessary action.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge

September 6, 2024
Decision Dated and Mailed

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APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with this 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:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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 adquiera 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.