

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

CHRYSTAL L WELDON
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-05285-B2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

GARY THOMPSON OIL CO
Employer

OC: 04/12/20
Claimant: Respondent (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed the representative's decision dated February 16, 2022, reference 04, that concluded it failed to file a timely protest regarding the claimant's separation of employment on August 16, 2019, and no disqualification of unemployment insurance benefits was imposed. A hearing was scheduled and held on April 6, 2022, pursuant to due notice. Employer participated by Tom Wierson. Claimant failed to respond to the hearing notice and did not participate. Employer's Exhibits 1-3 were admitted into evidence.

ISSUES:

Whether the employer's protest is timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on April 21, 2020, and received by the employer within ten days. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. The employer did not effect a protest until September 8, 2021, which is after the ten-day period had expired.

Employer's exhibits and testimony show employer completed and successfully faxed in a protest in this matter on April 22, 2020. This is within 10 days of the Notice of Claim being sent to employer.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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.

A portion of the Iowa 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. IDJS*, 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. The employer has shown compliance with the jurisdictional time limit. Therefore, the administrative law judge retains jurisdiction to entertain any protest regarding the separation from employment.

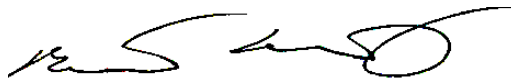
The administrative law judge concludes the employer effected a timely protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law. The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has effected a timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6-2, and the administrative law judge retains jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the claimant's termination of employment. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979); *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979) and *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company v. Employment Appeal Board*, 465 N.W.2d 674 (Iowa App. 1990).

This matter will be remanded to the fact finder for a determination on the separation issue.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated February 16, 2022, reference 04, is reversed. The employer has filed a timely protest.

This matter will be remanded to the fact finder for a determination on the separation issue.



Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

April 12, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn