

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**LUCIA W SANTILLAN**  
Claimant

**PORTER MOVING COMPANY LLC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 15A-UI-13892-DL-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 11/08/15**  
**Claimant: Respondent (4)**

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Iowa Code Chapter 95 – Requalification  
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed a timely appeal from the December 8, 2015 (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on January 8, 2016. Claimant opted not to participate as the outcome of the hearing would not affect her benefits as she has requalified for benefits since this separation. Employer participated through owner Kyle Porter.

**ISSUES:**

Is the employer's protest timely?

Has the claimant requalified for benefits since the separation from this employer?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on November 13, 2015 and was received on November 28, 2015 because the employer was on vacation out-of-state from November 14 through 28, 2015. No one was working in the office to handle mail although some moves were completed. The employer filed its protest on December 2, 2015. The claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation from the employer.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The first issue is whether employer's protest is timely. The administrative law judge concludes it is.

Iowa Code § 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.

The law provides that all interested parties shall be promptly notified about an individual filing a claim. The parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of claim to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. Iowa Code § 96.6(2). Another portion of Iowa Code § 96.6(2) dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states 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 has held that this statute clearly limits the time to do so, and compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. *Beardslee v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979). The reasoning and holding of the *Beardslee* court is considered controlling on the portion of Iowa Code § 96.6(2) that deals with the time limit to file a protest after the notice of claim has been mailed to the employer.

The employer did not have an opportunity to protest the notice of claim because the notice was not received in a timely fashion. Without timely notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973). The employer filed the protest within five days of receipt of the notice of claim. Therefore, the protest shall be accepted as timely.

The administrative law judge further concludes that the claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation from this employer. Accordingly, benefits are allowed and the account of the employer shall not be charged.

**DECISION:**

The December 8, 2015 (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision is modified in favor of the appellant. The employer has filed a timely protest and 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.

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Dévon M. Lewis  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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