

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

PRESTON G HOPKINS

Claimant

APPEAL 23A-UI-10646-LJ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

ADVANCE SERVICES INC

Employer

OC: 05/21/23

Claimant: Respondent (4)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(6) – Appeal from the Statement of Charges

Iowa Code Chapter 96 – Requalification

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On November 14, 2023, Advance Services Inc. (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated November 9, 2023, reference 03, for the third quarter of 2023. A hearing was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, pursuant to due notice. No hearing was held, as there was sufficient evidence in the appeal letter and administrative record to resolve the matter without testimony.

ISSUES:

Did the employer file a timely appeal from the statement of charges?

Has the claimant requalified for benefits since the separation?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Preston G. Hopkins (claimant) filed the claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective May 21, 2023, and the weekly benefit amount is \$551.00. He separated from the employer in the first quarter of 2022. The administrative record shows that after the separation, but before filing the claim for benefits, he earned more than \$5,510.00, or ten times the weekly benefit amount, in insured wages.

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) provided a notice of claim to the employer through the online SIDES system and sent an email alert to the employer on May 24, 2023. The employer responded to the notice of claim by filing a protest in the online SIDES system on June 5, 2023.¹ Subsequently, IWD sent the employer the November 9, 2023 (reference 03) statement of charges listing charges to the employer's account for the third quarter of 2023. Claimant's name is one of the names listed on that statement. The employer filed its appeal of that statement of charges on November 14, 2023.

¹ The "Broker Record Effective Date" in SIDES shows the employer filed its protest on June 5, 2023 at 9:58 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons set forth below, I find the employer has timely appealed the statement of charges, and the claimant has requalified for benefits by earning ten times the weekly benefit amount in insured wages following the separation from this employer.

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. [Emphasis added.]

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.*

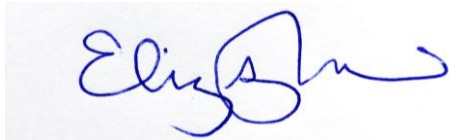
4. Also notwithstanding the provisions of subrule 26.4(2), a reimbursable employer, which has not previously received a notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits, may appeal an individual's eligibility to receive benefits within 15 days of the mailing date of the quarterly billing of benefit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

As pointed out above, an employer may only appeal a claimant's eligibility for benefits through the quarterly statement of charges when it has not previously received notice of the filing of a valid claim for benefits. In this case, the employer received and responded to the notice of claimant's unemployment insurance claim. Therefore, the employer may not appeal the quarterly statement of charges. While the appeal is timely, it is not appropriate.

However, the employer was charged for benefits when it should not have been, as the claimant has requalified for benefits by earning ten times the weekly benefit amount since separating from employment. The employer followed the rules set forth on the statement of charges it received by filing the appeal to the statement of charges within thirty days. 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 November 9, 2023, reference 03, statement of charges for the third quarter of 2023 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. The claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible. The account of the employer (279311) shall not be charged and a credit shall be issued on a future statement of charges.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge

December 8, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

LJ/jkb

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the 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 adquiriera 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.