

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

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**PATTI L ENGLEHART**  
Claimant

**BLACKHAWK SERVICES CORP**  
Employer

**APPEAL 23A-UI-02873-SN-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 09/11/22**  
**Claimant: Respondent (1R)**

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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 March 16, 2023, Blackhawk Services Corp. (employer) filed an appeal from the statement of charges dated February 9, 2023, listing charge information for the fourth quarter of 2022. The claimant did not participate. The employer participated through Unemployment Insurance Representative Jena Rice. Exhibits 1, 2, and 3 were received into the record. Official notice was taken 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 filed a claim for benefits effective July 18, 2021. A notice of claim was mailed to the employer on July 26, 2021. The employer filed its protest on August 3, 2022, two days before the due date August 5, 2021. The protest said the claimant quit voluntarily on March 26, 2021. The employer provided a copy this notice of claim and the corresponding transmittal report. (Exhibit 3)

On August 11, 2021, reference 01, a representative issued a decision allowing benefits reasoning, the claimant quit for the sole purpose of accepting work elsewhere. The decision further stated, "Wage credits in the amount of \$12,354.00, earned during the period from April 1, 2020, until March 26, 2021, will be charged to the unemployment compensation fund." This was for claimant's July 18, 2021 claim year.

The claimant filed a claim for benefits in a subsequent benefit year, effective September 11, 2022. A notice of claim was mailed to the employer on October 7, 2022. The employer filed its protest on October 14, 2022, three days before the due date October 17, 2022. The protest said the claimant quit voluntarily on March 26, 2021. The employer provided a copy this notice of

claim and the corresponding transmittal report. (Exhibit 1) Iowa Workforce Development did not issue any decision regarding the claimant's separation from employment with this employer regarding her new September 11, 2022 claim year.

The employer did not know that Iowa Workforce Development had paid benefits to the claimant and charged its account until February 9, 2023, when it received its statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2022. The employer filed an appeal to that statement of charges on March 16, 2023.

## **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge finds as follows:

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.

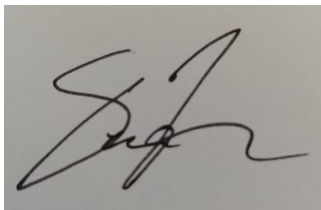
As pointed out above, an employer may only appeal a claimant's eligibility for benefits through the quarterly statement of charges when it has not previously received notice of an allowance of benefits to an individual regarding that claim year. In this case, the employer received and responded to the notice of claimant's unemployment insurance claim. Iowa Workforce Development failed to make an adjudication on the eligibility of claimant in the September 11, 2022 claim year once that statement of protest was received. Because the employer filed its appeal within thirty days of the date of mailing of the statement of charges and had not previously been notified of the allowance of benefits to a claimant, the appeal from the statement of charges is considered timely.

**DECISION:**

The February 9, 2023, statement of charges for the fourth quarter of 2022 is AFFIRMED, pending the outcome of the remanded issue. The employer's appeal to the statement of charges was timely.

**REMAND:**

This matter is remanded to the Benefits Bureau of Iowa Workforce Development for review and determination regarding whether claimant's separation from employment with this employer is disqualifying in her September 11, 2022 claim year, whether a previously adjudicated separation decision should be issued, and/or whether the claimant may have requalified for benefits since separating with this employer. Any and all appropriate credits shall be issued to the employer in the subsequent statement of charges.



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Sean M. Nelson  
Administrative Law Judge II  
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals  
Administrative Hearings Division – UI Appeals Bureau

April 5, 2023  
Decision Dated and Mailed

smn/mh

**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:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
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:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
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.