

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

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**OLIVERIO ARMENTA**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 22A-UI-05668-DZ-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**GRELL ROOFING LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 10/27/19  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal  
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work  
Iowa Code § 96.5(3)A – Failure to Accept Work

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Oliverio Armenta, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the March 30, 2021 (reference 02) unemployment insurance (UI) decision that denied benefits because Iowa Workforce Development records indicated that Mr. Armenta refused recall to suitable work with the employer on June 30, 2020. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 27, 2022. Mr. Armenta participated personally through a CTS Language Link Spanish interpreter. The employer participated through Chase Michehl, operations. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUES:**

Is Mr. Armenta's appeal filed on time?  
Is Mr. Armenta able to and available for work?  
Was a suitable offer of work made to Mr. Armenta?  
If so, did he fail to accept it and was the failure to do so for a good cause reason?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to Mr. Armenta at the correct address on March 30, 2021. The UI decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Appeals Section by April 9, 2021.

Mr. Armenta received the decision in the mail. Mr. Armenta called IWD, and the representative told him he could appeal if he disagreed with the decision. Mr. Armenta did not file an appeal at that time.

IWD issued three additional decisions on February 28, 2022 finding Mr. Armenta was overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits, Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Lost Wage Assistance Payments (LWAP) benefits. Mr. Armenta received at least one of those decision in the mail. Mr. Armenta filed an appeal online on April 3, 2022. IWD Appeals Bureau received the appeal on April 3, 2022. Mr. Armenta also appealed via mail postmarked by the

United States Postal Service on March 4, 2022. IWD Appeals Bureau received that appeal on April 7, 2022. IWD set up appeals for the three overpayment UI decisions and the March 30, 2021, (reference 02) UI decision.

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

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Mr. Armenta's appeal of the March 30, 2021, (reference 02) UI decision was not filed on time.

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part: “[u]nless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after notification was mailed to the claimant's last known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final and benefits shall be paid or denied in accordance with the decision.”

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(1) provides:

2. Except as otherwise provided by statute or by division rule, any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document submitted to the division shall be considered received by and filed with the division:
  - (2) If transmitted via the United States Postal Service on the date it is mailed as shown by the postmark, or in the absence of a postmark the postage meter mark of the envelope in which it is received; or if not postmarked or postage meter marked or if the mark is illegible, on the date entered on the document as the date of completion.
    - (b) If transmitted via the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES), maintained by the United States Department of Labor, on the date it was submitted to SIDES.
    - (c) If transmitted by any means other than [United States Postal Service or the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES)], on the date it is received by the division.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2) provides:

2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission was due to division error or misinformation or to delay or other action of the United States postal service.

The Iowa Supreme Court has declared that there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and that the administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979). Compliance with appeal notice provisions is jurisdictional unless the facts of a case show that the notice was invalid. *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979); see also *In re Appeal of Elliott* 319 N.W.2d 244, 247 (Iowa 1982).

Mr. Armenta received the March 30, 2021, (reference 02) UI decision before the deadline and, therefore, could have filed an appeal by the appeal deadline. The notice provision of the

decision was valid. Mr. Armenta's delay in filing his appeal was not due to an error or misinformation from the Department or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. No other good cause reason has been established for the delay in filing his appeal. Mr. Armenta's appeal of the reference 02 UI decision was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issues in this matter.

**DECISION:**

Mr. Armenta's appeal of the March 30, 2021, (reference 02) UI decision was not filed on time. The March 30, 2021, (reference 02) UI decision is AFFIRMED.



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Daniel Zeno  
Administrative Law Judge  
Iowa Workforce Development  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax 515-478-3528

July 25, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/kmj

**NOTE TO MR. ARMENTA:**

- **Even though you already paid off the overpayment**, if you were unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19, you may qualify for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits.
- **You must apply for PUA benefits to determine your eligibility under the program.** To apply for PUA benefits,
  - First go to <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-appeals>
  - Go to the "WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE HEARING" section.
  - Go to the last two sentences in that section.
  - The PUA application link is at the end of the second-to-last sentence of the section.

- The reference number/authorization number is the pin number you used for the appeal hearing: 105668.
- Governor Reynolds ended Iowa's participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs, including the PUA program, effective June 12, 2021. **But you can still apply for PUA benefits at the link above if you were unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 between February 2, 2020, and June 12, 2021.**
- To check on your PUA application contact IWD online, via email, or by phone.
  - Online: Go to [www.iowaworkforce.gov](http://www.iowaworkforce.gov), click on "Contact Us" then click on "Unemployment Help Request" and complete the form.
  - Email: [uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov)
  - Phone: 1-866-239-0843

**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>.

**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  
4<sup>th</sup> 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 adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que está en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf>.

**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 enumerad