

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

DEREK A OPPENHEIMER
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 20A-UI-00091-JE-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

DECO PRODUCTS COMPANY LLLP
Employer

OC: 11/24/19
Claimant: Respondent (1)

Iowa Code Section 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer filed a timely appeal from the December 31, 2019, reference 03, decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call before Administrative Law Judge Julie Elder on January 24, 2020. The claimant did not respond to the hearing notice and did not participate in the hearing. Barb Breza, Human Resources Manager, participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer. Department's Exhibit D-1 was admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the employer's protest is timely.

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 26, 2019, and received by the employer within ten days. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked, faxed or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. That date fell on December 6, 2019. The employer did not file a protest until December 26, 2019, which is after the ten-day period had expired. The notice of claim was received by the employer but she was very busy with open enrollment and other end of the year tasks. The employer misplaced the notice of claim and when it was located the employer faxed it to the Department (Employer's Exhibit D-1).

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.

Another portion of this same 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 not shown any good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit. Therefore, the administrative law judge is without jurisdiction to entertain any appeal regarding the separation from employment

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law. The delay was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 4.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6(2), and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the claimant's separation from 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).

DECISION:

The December 31, 2019, reference 03, decision is affirmed. The employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Julie Elder
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

je/scn