

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

JOHN SIELA
Claimant

D E I INC
Employer

APPEAL 23A-UI-04559-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 02/26/23
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

John Siela, the claimant/appellant,¹ filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development April 5, 2023 (reference 01) unemployment insurance (UI) decision. The decision denied Mr. Siela REGULAR (state) UI benefits because IWD concluded that the employer discharged him from work on March 2, 2023 for wanton carelessness in performing his work. The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) UI Appeals Bureau mailed a notice of hearing to Mr. Siela and the employer. The undersigned administrative law judge held a telephone hearing on May 18, 2023. Mr. Siela participated personally. The employer participated through Brian Woods, accounting manager/office manager, Dave Dohrmann, owner/president and Brian Wernimont, plant manager. The undersigned took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Did Mr. Siela file his appeal on time?

Did the employer discharge Mr. Siela from employment for disqualifying, job-related misconduct?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds: IWD mailed the April 5, 2023, (reference 01) UI decision to Mr. Siela at the correct address on April 5, 2023. The UI decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by the IWD Appeals Section by Saturday, April 15, 2023. If the appeal deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. So, the appeal deadline was extended to Monday, April 17, 2023. Mr. Siela received this decision in the mail on, or about, April 18, 2023. Mr. Siela did not file an appeal at this time.

On April 26, 2023, IWD mailed Mr. Siela another UI decision. This decision, a reference 02 UI decision, concluded that IWD had overpaid Mr. Siela REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the total gross amount of \$1,613.00 for 5 weeks between February 26, 2023 and April 1, 2023 because the April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision denied him REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on

¹ Claimant is the person who filed the UI claim with IWD. Appellant is the person or employer who filed the appeal.

how his job ended with this employer. The appeal deadline in the decision was Saturday, May 6, 2023. If the appeal deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. So, the appeal deadline was extended to Monday, May 8, 2023. Mr. Siela received the decision in the mail on May 2, 2023.

The next day, May 3, 2023, Mr. Siela went to the IWD Cedar Rapids local office to ask the IWD representative about the reference 02 UI decision, the one that said he had to pay money back to IWD. Mr. Siela filed an appeal via fax on May 3, 2023. The DIA UI Appeals Bureau received Mr. Siela's appeal on May 3, 2023. The DIA UI Appeals Bureau set up appeals for the reference 01 and 02 UI decisions. This appeal involves only the reference 01 UI decision. Appeal 23A-UI-04560-DZ-T deals with the reference 02 decision.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the undersigned concludes Mr. Siela did not file his appeal of the April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision 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 undersigned has no

authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed.² Compliance with appeal notice provisions is jurisdictional unless the facts of a case show that the notice was invalid.³

Mr. Siela received the April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision after the appeal deadline and, therefore, could not have filed an appeal by the deadline. The notice provision of the decision was invalid. But Mr. Siela did not file his appeal of the reference 01 UI decision within ten days of when he received this decision. Mr. Siela waited until he received the reference 02 UI decision about two weeks later and then he filed his appeal. Mr. Siela's delay in filing his appeal was not due to an error or misinformation from IWD or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. Mr. Siela did not file his appeal of the April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision on time and the undersigned lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

DECISION:

Mr. Siela did not file his appeal of the April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision on time. The April 5, 2023 (reference 01) UI decision denying Mr. Siela REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on how his job ended with this employer is AFFIRMED.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge

May 19, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

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² *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979).

³ *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).

APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with this 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
4th 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 adquiera 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.