

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

HAYLEE L ALTER
Claimant

APPEAL 17A-UI-01130-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 10/09/16
Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the January 10, 2017, (reference 03) decision that denied benefits for the one week period ending December 10, 2016. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on February 21, 2017. Claimant participated.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant file a timely appeal?

Is the claimant able to and available for work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant never received the decision denying her benefits for the one week period ending December 10, 2016. She learned of the decision when she called Iowa Workforce Development once her unemployment insurance benefits were stopped. She filed an appeal after learning of the decision.

When making her weekly claim for benefits for the week ending December 10, the claimant mistakenly indicated she was not able to and available for work.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the claimant's appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is.

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) provides:

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. The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information

concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of section 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to section 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 10, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to section 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". Unless 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. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The claimant did not have an opportunity to appeal the fact-finder's decision because the decision was not received. Without notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973). The claimant filed an appeal as soon as she learned of her disqualification. Therefore, the appeal shall be accepted as timely.

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that the claimant is able to work and available for work.

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) provides:

An unemployed individual shall be eligible to receive benefits with respect to any week only if the department finds that:

3. The individual is able to work, is available for work, and is earnestly and actively seeking work. This subsection is waived if the individual is deemed partially unemployed, while employed at the individual's regular job, as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "b", unnumbered paragraph (1), or temporarily unemployed as defined in section 96.19, subsection 38, paragraph "c". The work search requirements of this subsection and the disqualification requirement for failure to apply for, or to accept suitable work of section 96.5, subsection 3 are waived if the individual is not disqualified for benefits under section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraph "h".

Claimant mistakenly indicated she was not able to and available for work for the week ending December 10, 2016. She was able to and available for work that week. Accordingly, benefits are allowed, **provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.**

DECISION:

The January 10, 2017, (reference 03) decision is reversed. The claimant did file a timely appeal. The claimant is able to work and available for work for the week ending December 10, 2016. Benefits are allowed, **provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.**

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs