

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**ALLEN D STEWARD**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-07808-JT-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 06/28/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code Section 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal  
P.L. 116-136, §2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation Overpayment

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On March 31, 2022, Allen Steward (claimant) filed a late appeal from the March 15, 2022 (reference 03) decision that held the claimant was overpaid \$4,500.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) for 15 weeks between December 27, 2020 and April 10, 2020, due to the March 15, 2022 (reference 02) decision that held the claimant was overpaid PEUC benefits for the affected period. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on May 11, 2022. Claimant participated. There were three appeal numbers set for a consolidated hearing: 22A-UI-07804-JT-T, 22A-UI-07805-JT-T and 22A-UI-07808-JT-T. Exhibits A through E were received into evidence. The administrative law judge took official notice of the following Agency administrative records: DBIN, KPYX, WAGE-C, WAGE-A, and the reference 01, 02 and 03 decisions. The administrative law judge also took official notice of relevant Illinois unemployment insurance law. For purposes of the present decision, the administrative law judge has also taken official notice of the IDES Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the appeal was timely. Whether there is good cause to treat the appeal as timely.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

On March 15, 2022, IWD mailed two overpayment decisions (reference 02 and 03) to the claimant. The reference 03 decision held the claimant was overpaid \$4,500.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) for 15 weeks between December 27, 2020 and April 10, 2020, due to the March 15, 2022 (reference 02) decision that held the claimant was overpaid PEUC benefits for the affected period. Each decision stated that the decision would become final unless an appeal was postmarked or received by the Appeals Section by March 25, 2022. The overpayment decisions were delivered to the claimant's address of record in a timely manner, prior to the March 25, 2022 deadline for appeal. The claimant reviewed the

decisions on March 22, 2022. The claimant did not take steps to appeal either overpayment by the March 25, 2022 deadline.

On March 31, 2022, the claimant completed and transmitted an online appeal. The Appeals Bureau received the appeal on March 31, 2022 and treated it as a late appeal from the overpayment decisions and an earlier decision that denied PEUC benefits.

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

Iowa Code section 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, subsections 10 and 11, 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 ten-day deadline for appeal begins to run on the date Workforce Development mails the decision to the parties. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the Agency representative's decision, unless otherwise corrected immediately below that entry, is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing. *Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); *Johnson v. Board of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

An appeal submitted by mail is deemed filed 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 was 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. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(1)(a). See also *Messina v. IDJS*, 341 N.W.2d 52 (Iowa 1983). An appeal submitted by any other means is deemed filed on the date it is received by the Unemployment Insurance Division of Iowa Workforce Development. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(1)(b).

The evidence in the record establishes that more than ten calendar days elapsed between the mailing date and the date this appeal was filed. 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). One question in this case thus becomes whether the appellant was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal in a timely fashion. *Hendren v. IESC*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. IESC*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the division after considering the circumstances in the case. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(2)(c).

The evidence in the record establishes an untimely appeal. The evidence establishes that the claimant received the March 15, 2020 (reference 03) decision in a timely manner, had a reasonable opportunity to file an appeal by the March 25, 2021 appeal deadline, but unreasonably delayed filing the appeal to March 31, 2022. The late filing of the appeal was not attributable to the Iowa Workforce Development error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. There is not good cause to treat the late appeal as a timely appeal. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(2). Because the appeal was untimely, administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to disturb the decision from which the claimant appeals in the present matter. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

#### **DECISION:**

The claimant's appeal from the March 15, 2022 (reference 03) decision is untimely. The decision that held the claimant was overpaid \$4,500.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) for 15 weeks between December 27, 2020 and April 10, 2020, due to the March 15, 2022 (reference 02) decision that held the claimant was overpaid PEUC benefits for the affected period remains in effect. The claimant must repay the overpaid FPUC benefits unless the claimant applies for and is approved for waiver of repayment of FPUC benefits. See below.



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James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge

June 27, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/mh

*Note to Claimant:* This decision determines you have been overpaid FPUC under the CARES Act. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Additionally, instructions for requesting a waiver of this overpayment can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.