

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

VALERIE WILLIAMS
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-14416-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

PILOT TRAVEL CENTERS LLC
Employer

**OC: 04/19/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.19(38) – Total, Partial, Temporary Unemployment
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Same Hours and Wages
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Same Base Period Employment
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Valerie Williams, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development's (IWD) September 9, 2020 (reference 03) unemployment insurance (UI) decision that denied REGULAR (state) UI benefits as of April 19, 2020 because IWD records indicated that Ms. Williams was still employed in her job for the same hours and wages as in her original contract of hire. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on August 5, 2022. Ms. Williams participated personally. The employer did not participate in the hearing. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Is Ms. Williams' appeal filed on time?
Is Ms. Williams able to and available for work?
Is Ms. Williams totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
If so, is the employer's account subject to charge?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: IWD mailed the UI decision to Ms. Williams at her address of record on September 9, 2020. The UI decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Appeals Section by September 19, 2020. If the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. September 19, 2020 was a Saturday; therefore, the deadline was extended to Monday, September 21, 2020. Ms. Williams received the decision in the mail. Ms. Williams does not recall what she did after she received the decision.

IWD mailed Ms. Williams four more UI decisions. On May 25, 2021, IWD mailed Ms. Williams a reference 04 decision to her address of record. The decision concluded she was overpaid REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the gross amount of \$3,942.00. Ms. Williams received the decision in the mail. Ms. Williams contacted her bank and got bank records about how much UI benefits IWD had paid her. Ms. Williams did not file an appeal at that time.

On August 5, 2021, IWD mailed two decisions to Ms. Williams at her address of record: a reference 05 decision that concluded she was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits in the gross amount of \$8,400.00, and a reference 06 decision that concluded she was overpaid Lost Wage Assistance Payments (LWAP) benefits in the gross amount of \$1,500.00. Ms. Williams received both of those decisions. Ms. Williams did not file an appeal at that time.

On February 24, 2022, IWD mailed Ms. Williams a reference 07 decision to her address of record. The decision notified Ms. Williams that IWD was withholding her 2021 Iowa income tax refund to apply to an overpayment of UI benefits that she owes to IWD. Ms. Williams received the decision in the mail. Ms. Williams did not file an appeal at that time.

In mid-June 2022, IWD mailed Ms. Williams a statement of overpayment telling her that she owes IWD an overpayment of \$13,842.00 (\$3,942.00 in REGULAR (state) UI benefits + \$8,400.00 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits + \$1,500.00 in Lost Wage Assistance Payments (LWAP) benefits). Ms. Williams received the statement. About a week later, Ms. Williams filed an appeal. Ms. Williams filed an appeal via mail postmarked by the United States Postal Service on June 22, 2022. The appeal was received on June 24, 2022.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Ms. Williams' appeal of the September 9, 2020 (reference 03) 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 Date 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).

Ms. Williams received the September 9, 2020 (reference 03) UI decision by the September 21, 2020 deadline and, therefore, could have filed an appeal by the appeal deadline. The notice provision of the decision was valid. Ms. Williams' delay in filing her 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 her appeal. Ms. Williams' appeal of the September 9, 2020 (reference 03) UI decision was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issues in this matter.

DECISION:

Ms. Williams' appeal of the September 9, 2020 (reference 03) UI decision was not filed on time. The September 9, 2020 (reference 03) UI decision is AFFIRMED.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge

September 26, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

NOTE TO MS. WILLIAMS:

- If you were unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19, you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. **You must apply for PUA benefits to determine your eligibility.** 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: 114416.

- **If IWD finds you eligible for federal PUA benefits, you can use the federal PUA benefits to pay off the REGULAR (state) UI overpayment.**

- **If you do not apply for and are not approved for PUA, you are required to repay the benefits you've received so far.**

- 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, click on "Contact Us" then click on "Unemployment Help Request" and complete the form.
 - Email: uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov
 - Phone: 1-866-239-0843

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.