

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JESSICA L STECKLEIN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 08A-UI-07703-MT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

K & B INVESTMENTS INC
SUBWAY
Employer

OC: 01/20/08 R: 04
Claimant: Respondent (1)

Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed the representative's decision dated August 25, 2008, reference 03, that concluded it failed to file a timely protest regarding the claimant's separation of employment on August 1, 2005, and no disqualification of unemployment insurance benefits was imposed. A telephone hearing was scheduled and held on September 9, 2008, pursuant to due notice. Claimant participated personally. Employer participated by Bobbi Allebach, President. Exhibits One and Two were admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether the employer's protest is timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on January 25, 2008, and received by the employer within ten days. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. The employer did not effect a protest until August 22, 2008, which is after the ten-day period had expired. The notice of claim was sent in by an employer representative while the company president was on vacation for 22 days. The protest was filled out improperly. Employer did not give the manager permission to open the mail. No one was properly designated to open mail for a period of 22 days while the president was out of the country. Employer did not handle its important business with due diligence when failing to make arrangements for emergency situations.

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 protest regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes the employer failed to effect a timely protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law, and 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 24.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to effect a timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code section 96.6-2, and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the claimant's termination of 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).

Employer's leaving for 22 days with no one to open the mail is not good excuse for the delay in filing a protest.

DECISION:

The decision of the representative dated August 25, 2008, reference 03, 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.

Marlon Mormann
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

mdm/pjs