

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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**CURTIS R STRUTZENBERG**  
Claimant

**GODFATHER'S EXTERMINATING INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 14A-UI-05530-LT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 04/27/14  
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

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Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed a timely appeal from the May 21, 2014, (reference 03) decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely without having held a fact-finding interview pursuant to Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.9(2)b. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on June 18, 2013. Claimant participated. Employer participated through office manager Erin Kayser. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record, including the Notice of Claim and protest.

**ISSUES:**

Is the employer's protest timely?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on May 2, 2014, and was received within the protest period. The employer filed its protest on May 15, 2014, and delayed three days while awaiting internal information about the separation. The claimant has requalified for benefits since the separation from the employer.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law.

Iowa Code § 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 appeal regarding the separation from employment.

Employer's choice to hold the mail while the business operations continued during the human resources manager's absence was a business decision. The delay was not due to any *Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service* pursuant to Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-4.35(2). No other good cause reason has been established for the delay. The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code § 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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979); *Franklin v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979) and *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. v. Emp't Appeal Bd.*, 465 N.W.2d 674 (Iowa Ct. App. 1990).

**DECISION:**

The May 21, 2014, (reference 03) decision is affirmed. Employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect.

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Dévon M. Lewis  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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