

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JOSHUA A PALMER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 07A-UI-10200-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

AREA AMBULANCE AUTHORITY
Employer

**OC: 09/30/07 R: 03
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed a timely appeal from the October 31, 2007, reference 02, decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on November 20, 2007. The claimant did participate. The employer participated by Keith Rippey and Jennifer Peden. Department's Exhibit D-1 was received.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether employer's protest is timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant's Notice of Claim was mailed to employer's address of record on October 8, 2007, and was received by employer on October 19, 2007. The Notice of Claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked, faxed or returned not later than ten days from the initial *mailing* date. This deadline period is not counted from the receipt date, thus effectively allowing no more than nine additional days to respond. Employer completed the protest form on October 23, 2007 (Department's Exhibit D-1) but did not file a protest until October 29, 2007, which is an additional ten full days after receipt and 21 days after mailing. Employer caused the additional delay between October 19 and 29 by exchanging voice mails with a person on another shift who did not participate in the hearing and by gathering a document submitted with the protest.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF 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 § 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.

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law. Employer's decision to wait an additional ten days after *receipt* of the Notice of Claim, to submit its protest was an unreasonable delay. *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 4.35(2)*. 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. 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).

DECISION:

The October 31, 2007, reference 02, 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.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/css