

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

DARREN M HUCKINS
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-18003-NT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 11/01/09
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Section 96.4-4 – Earnings of \$250.00 in Insured Wages
Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Darren Huckins filed an appeal from a representative's decision dated November 17, 2009, reference 02, which denied benefits effective November 1, 2009 upon a finding the claimant was not paid \$250.00 in insured wages during or after the previous benefit year in which he received unemployment benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone on Saturday, January 23, 2010. The claimant participated personally.

ISSUE:

At issue in this matter is whether the appeal filed herein was timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds: That a disqualification decision was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record on November 17, 2009. The claimant received the decision. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by Appeals Section by November 27, 2009. The appeal was not filed until December 1, 2009, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision. Mr. Huckins read the decision, disagreed with it and was aware of the date that the appeal must be filed or postmarked.

Mr. Huckins delayed filing his appeal while looking for documentation to support his appeal. Mr. Huckins deposited his appeal letter with the U.S. Postal Service on December 1, 2009.

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, subsection 10, 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.

Ten calendar days for an appeal begins running on the mailing date. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the representative's decision unless otherwise corrected is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing.

Pursuant to rules 871 IAC 26.2(96)(1) and 871 IAC 24.35(96)(1) appeals are considered filed when postmarked if mailed.

The record in this case shows that more than ten calendar days elapsed between the mailing date and the date this appeal was filed. The Iowa Supreme Court of Iowa has declared there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representative's 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. Iowa Department of Job Service, 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. Iowa Department of Job Service, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979); see also In re Appeal of Elliott, 319 N.W.2d 244, 247 (Iowa 1982). The question in this case thus becomes whether the appellant was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal in a timely fashion. The record shows the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

The administrative law judge concludes that the failure to file a timely appeal within the time prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law was not due to Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action by the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 24.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the appeal was not timely filed 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 appeal.

DECISION:

The representative's decision dated November 17, 2009, reference 02, is hereby affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely and the decision of the representative remains in effect.

Terence P. Nice
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

css/css