

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

JUNE HALL
Claimant

WAL-MART STORES INC
Employer

APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-06075-BT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/19/13
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5-1 - Voluntary Quit
Iowa Code § 96.6-2 - Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

June Hall (claimant) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated May 28, 2014, (reference 03), which held that she was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits because he voluntarily quit her employment with Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (employer) without good cause attributable to the employer. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on July 8, 2014. The claimant participates in the hearing. The employer participated through Sergei Guschin, Shift Manager and Bridgette Kaufsman, Assistant Manager. Exhibit D-1 was admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant filed a timely appeal or established a legal excuse for filing a late appeal.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and 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 May 28, 2014. The claimant received the decision on May 30, 2014. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Section by June 7, 2014, but the date was moved back to June 9, 2014, since the due date fell on a Saturday. The appeal was not filed until June 10, 2014, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The law states that an unemployment insurance decision is final unless a party appeals the decision within ten days after the decision was mailed to the party's last-known address. Iowa Code § 96.6-2. The unemployment insurance rules provide that if the failure to file a timely appeal was due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United

States Postal Service, it would be considered timely. 871 IAC 24.35(2). Without timely notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

The ten calendar days for 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 immediately below that entry, is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing. *Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); *Johnson v. Board of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

Pursuant to rules 871 IAC 26.2(96)(1) and 871 IAC 24.35(96)(1), appeals are considered filed when postmarked, if mailed. *Messina v. IDJS*, 341 N.W.2d 52 (Iowa 1983).

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 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). The question in this case thus becomes whether the appellant was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal in a timely fashion. *Hendren v. IESC*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. IESC*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973). The record shows that the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

The administrative law judge concludes that failure to file a timely appeal within the time prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law 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 appeal was not timely filed 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 appeal. See, *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

DECISION:

The claimant's appeal in this case was not timely. The unemployment insurance decision dated May 28, 2014, (reference 03), is affirmed. The claimant voluntarily left work without good cause attributable to the employer. Benefits are withheld until she has worked in and has been paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided she is otherwise eligible.

Susan D. Ackerman
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

sda/pjs