

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**MEGAN R BLAINE**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 20A-UI-11194-S1-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**RECOVERY ROOM**  
Employer

**OC: 03/15/20**  
**Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed a timely appeal from the June 17, 2020, reference 01, decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on October 22, 2020. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Sharon Stout, Owner. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative file.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the employer filed a timely protest.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and 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 March 19, 2020, and received by the employer within ten days. The address of record was the employer's home address. This was during the Covid-19 pandemic and the employer had approximately nine employees. 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. The employer filed a protest on March 31, 2020, which is after the ten-day period had expired.

**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

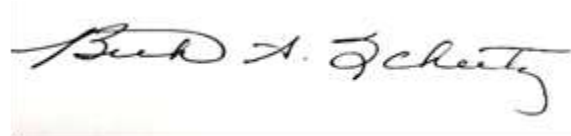
notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision 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. The owner conveniently received the notice at its home address and had relatively few employee notices for which it had to respond. 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. *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 separation from 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 June 17, 2020, reference 01, decision 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.



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Beth A. Scheetz  
Administrative Law Judge

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October 26, 2020  
Decision Dated and Mailed

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