

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

AMY C JURISIC
Claimant

APPEAL 20A-DUA-00184-AW-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 04/19/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

PL 116-136, Sec. 2012 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Filing – Timely Appeal
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35 – Filing

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated August 4, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. Claimant was properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 24, 2020, at 2:05 p.m. Claimant participated in the hearing. No exhibits were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant is eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.
Whether claimant filed a timely appeal.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to claimant at the correct address on August 4, 2020. Claimant received the decision within two to three days of mailing. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by August 15, 2020. If the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. August 15, 2020 was a Saturday; therefore, the appeal deadline was extended to Monday, August 17, 2020. Claimant appealed the decision online on August 18, 2020. The appeal was received by Iowa Workforce Development on August 18, 2020. Claimant did not appeal the decision prior to the deadline because she did not read the decision correctly and thought she had more time to file her appeal.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes that claimant's appeal was untimely.

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part: “[u]nless 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.”

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(1) provides:

1. Except as otherwise provided by statute or by division rule, any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document submitted to the division shall be considered received by and filed with the division:

(a) If transmitted via the United States Postal Service on the date it is mailed as shown by the postmark, or in the absence of a postmark the postage meter mark of the envelope in which it is received; or if not postmarked or postage meter marked or if the mark is illegible, on the date entered on the document as the date of completion.

(b) If transmitted via the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES), maintained by the United States Department of Labor, on the date it was submitted to SIDES.

(c) If transmitted by any means other than [United States Postal Service or the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES)], on the date it is received by the division.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2) provides:

2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission was due to division error or misinformation or to delay or other action of the United States postal service.

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).

Claimant received the decision prior to the appeal deadline but did not submit her appeal prior to the deadline. Claimant's delay in submitting her appeal was not due to any agency error or misinformation or delay of the United States Postal Service. The appeal was not timely. Therefore, the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal.

DECISION:

Claimant's appeal was untimely. The Iowa Workforce Development decision dated August 4, 2020 that determined claimant was not eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits is affirmed. The administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of the representative.



Adrienne C. Williamson
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September 29, 2020
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/sam