

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JOHN DYKES
Claimant

VA CENTRAL IA HEALTHCARE
Employer

APPEAL 22A-UCFE-00004-AW-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 10/31/21
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Filing – Timely Appeal
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35 – Filing
Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the December 3, 2021 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits finding claimant voluntarily quit his employment on October 25, 2021 due to a non-work-related injury or illness. The parties received proper notice of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on February 3, 2022. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Jenna Redding, Human Resources Specialist. The parties waived ten days' notice of the issue of separation as it was not listed on the notice of hearing. Claimant's Exhibit A was not admitted. Claimant's Exhibit B was admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant filed a timely appeal.
Whether claimant's separation was a voluntary quit without good cause attributable to employer.

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 December 3, 2021. Claimant received the decision on December 7, 2021 or December 8, 2021. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by December 13, 2021.

Claimant submitted his appeal via fax on December 13, 2021 from his local library. Claimant did not request or receive a confirmation that the fax was successful. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) did not receive claimant's December 13, 2021 appeal.

During a conversation with IWD, claimant learned that his December 13, 2021 appeal was not received. Claimant returned to his local library and obtained a confirmation that the fax was not successfully sent on December 13, 2021. Claimant resent his appeal via fax on December 16,

2021 from his local library. IWD received claimant's December 16, 2021 appeal. In addition to the fax error, claimant attributes his delay to his lack of transportation.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes:

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). 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).

Claimant received the decision prior to the appeal deadline but did not appeal the decision until after the deadline. Claimant's delay was not due to 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 not timely. The administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of the representative. The December 3, 2021 (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed.



Adrienne C. Williamson
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax (515)478-3528

February 23, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/ACW