

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**JOHN C BATA**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 18A-UI-01502-LJ-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 11/12/17**  
**Claimant: Appellant (2)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(1) – Filing Claims  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g – Retroactive Benefits

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the January 23, 2018, (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision that denied the request for retroactive benefits. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled for February 27, 2018. Claimant participated. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUE:**

Should the claimant's request for retroactive benefits be granted for the two-week period ending January 20, 2018?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having heard the testimony and having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed an original claim effective November 12, 2017, with a reopened claim on January 21, 2018. Claimant attempted to file his weekly claim for the one-week period ending January 13, 2018. He believes that he received a confirmation message indicating his claim was successful. Claimant went online to file his claim the following week and received an error message that his claim was locked. Claimant then called Iowa Workforce Development and learned that his claim was not successfully filed for the week prior.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted.

Iowa Code section 96.6(1) provides:

**96.6 Filing — determination — appeal.**

1. *Filing.* Claims for benefits shall be made in accordance with such regulations as the department may prescribe.

In order to be eligible for weekly benefits, the claimant must file an online web application continued claim or show good cause for the failure to do so to support a request for retroactive benefits. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(1)g.

What parties often misunderstand about the process is that during the week in which the unemployment occurs, the claimant should open an umbrella-like “original claim” (OC) by the close of business on Friday to establish the general claim for unemployment insurance benefits. In addition, for each week the claimant remains unemployed, they must file a “weekly continued claim” (WCC) to show they are available for work, report any wages, and otherwise establish eligibility for that past week of benefit payment. That must be done sometime between Sunday and Friday of the following week (see chart below). If a claimant does not file a WCC for one week for any reason and becomes unemployed again, the process must start over by reopening the OC no later than Friday, and filing weekly continued claim sometime between the following Sunday through Friday. No filing of any kind may be done on any Saturday.

The September 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 13 and 14:

**Claim Effective Date**

The effective date of all UI claims, regardless of filing method, will be the Sunday of the week in which the application was filed. The effective date of a claim will not be changed for applications that were not filed in a timely manner.

and

**Reactivating a Claim**

An individual can start and stop claiming weekly benefits as many times as necessary during the benefit year. This is called a break in reporting status. Any break in reporting requires the individual to file another initial claim application during the week he/she wants to start collecting benefits again. Any employment during the break must be reported.

The September 2017, version of the *Unemployment Insurance Benefits Handbook*, provides in pertinent part at pages 19 and 20:

**Filing Weekly Claims**

**How to File**

After you file your initial claim, file weekly claims online at [iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov) for every week you are unemployed or your hours are reduced. You must file a weekly claim for any week that you want payment even if your eligibility is being decided or you have an appeal pending.

To request UI benefit payments during weeks of unemployment, individuals must certify they:

- Are currently unemployed or working reduced hours
- Are able to work and available for work
- Have not refused any job offers or referrals to a job
- Are actively looking for work (unless waived)
- Are reporting any pay or pension payment

**When to File**

The current week is the week that just ended on Saturday. Weekly claims must be filed 8 am Sunday through 5:30 pm Friday for the prior week only. This means individuals have six days to file the previous week's claim. See the chart above for the days available to file. Weekly claims can be filed online using a mobile device or computer at <https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>.

Delay in filing your weekly claim could result in denial of benefits.

**IMPORTANT:** You will receive confirmation that the claim has been processed successfully. If you don't receive confirmation, the process must be repeated until the claim has been successfully submitted.

Elsewhere in the September 2017, version of the handbook at page 8, contact information includes days and hours for filing a claim and weekly claim reporting:

**File a Claim**

Hours: Sunday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm  
[www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov)  
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/UIInitialClaim/>

**Weekly Claim Reporting**

Hours: Sunday 8:00 am – 11:30 pm and Monday through Friday 8:00 am through 5:30 pm  
<https://uiclaims.iwd.iowa.gov/weeklyclaims/>

In this case, claimant is seeking two weeks of retroactive benefits. For the first week ending January 13, 2018, given the claim confirmation message, claimant's belief it was successful was reasonable and is considered a good reason for the delay in filing the weekly online web application continued claim. Claimant's request for retroactive benefits for that week is granted. For the second week ending January 20, 2018, claimant was not aware that his claim had closed. Even if he was aware, it would have been technically impossible for him to reopen his claim in order to file a weekly claim for benefits that week. Retroactive benefits are granted for this week as well.

**DECISION:**

The January 23, 2018, (reference 05) unemployment insurance decision is reversed. The claimant's request for retroactive benefits is granted.

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Elizabeth A. Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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