

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS  
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

**TODD B DORAN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 22A-UI-08214-AR-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 01/23/22**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Appeal  
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Available for work  
Iowa Code § 96.4(7) – Reemployment services  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.6 – Profiling for reemployment services  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.2(1)e – Procedures for workers desiring to file a claim for benefits  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871—24.23 (11) – Failure to Report

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant/appellant filed an appeal from the March 14, 2022 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was not eligible for unemployment benefits because claimant failed to report for a reemployment services appointment. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 20, 2022, and was held together with the hearing for appeal number 22A-UI-08215-AR-T. The claimant, Todd B. Doran, participated personally. Christina Watson participated on behalf of Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), and Jennifer Miller observed but did not testify. IWD Exhibits 1 through 3 were admitted. Department Exhibit D-1 was admitted. The administrative law judge took official notice of the claimant's unemployment insurance benefits records.

**ISSUES:**

Is the claimant's appeal timely?  
Is the claimant available for work effective March 6, 2022?  
Did the claimant fail to report as directed by a department representative to participate in a reemployment services appointment or offer justifiable cause for their failure to do so?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A disqualification decision was mailed to claimant's last known address of record on March 14, 2022. He did receive the decision within ten days. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by March 24, 2022. The appeal was not filed until March 25, 2022, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision. Claimant testified that all unemployment matters are routed through the accountant. Any delay in filing an appeal was likely due to the decision first going to the accountant for review and advice.

The claimant filed a claim for unemployment insurance benefits with an effective date of January 23, 2022. Claimant was selected to participate in a reemployment services appointment on March 8, 2022.

Claimant received the notice to report for the appointment. Claimant did not report for the appointment because he thought it must be a mistake. In past years, he had filed claims for benefits during seasonal layoffs without being asked to engage in such appointments or work searches. Claimant did not contact IWD prior to the appointment to inform it of a reason for claimant not being able to attend the appointment. Claimant did attempt to contact the workforce advisor approximately a week later but was unable to speak with her.

In 2022, IWD has taken a stricter stance regarding the definition of a person who is temporarily unemployed. Persons who file claims for benefits in excess of four weeks in a row are asked to report for a reemployment and eligibility assessment to determine if they should be required to begin work searches. If the claimant fails to report for this assessment, it is presumed they are not exempt from the work search requirement, and they are recoded to require work searches, in addition to being deemed unavailable for work due to failure to report for the assessment. This is what occurred for claimant.

#### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

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

Iowa Code section 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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979); see also *In re Appeal of Elliott* 319 N.W.2d 244, 247 (Iowa 1982).

Here, the claimant received the decision in the mail and, therefore, had an opportunity to file an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. Claimant's delay was not due to an error or misinformation from the Department or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. No other good cause reason has been established for the delay. Claimant's appeal was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to decide the other issue in this matter.

However, even if claimant's appeal was timely filed, the administrative law judge would affirm the representative's decision and deny benefits. The claimant received the notice to report and failed to do so. He did not notify IWD of the reason he could not report. Claimant failed to present justifiable cause for his failure to report as directed for a reemployment and eligibility assessment.

**DECISION:**

The March 14, 2022, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect. In the alternative the unemployment insurance decision is affirmed because the claimant has not provided justifiable cause for having failed to report for a reemployment and eligibility assessment.



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Alexis D. Rowe  
Administrative Law Judge

July 22, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

ar/mh

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> OR by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board  
4th Floor – Lucas Building  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

**UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:**

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.