

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**SHARON R CARPENTER**  
Claimant

**MERCY HEALTH SERVICES—IOWA CORP**  
Employer

**APPEAL 21A-UI-22996-LJ-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

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

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work  
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On October 13, 2021, claimant Sharon R. Carpenter filed an appeal from the December 15, 2020 (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits based on a determination that claimant was on a leave of absence and was not available for work. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephonic hearing was held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2021. Appeal numbers 21A-UI-22995-LJ-T, 21A-UI-22996-LJ-T, 21A-UI-22997-LJ-T, and 21A-UI-22998-LJ-T were heard together and created one record. The claimant, Sharon R. Carpenter, participated. The employer, Mercy Health Services—Iowa Corporation, participated through witness Heidi Willrett; and was represented by attorney Rochelle McKinney. Employer's Exhibits 1 through 27 were received and admitted into the record without objection. Department's Exhibits D-1, D-2, and D-3 were received and admitted into the record for consideration of the issue of timeliness. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUE:**

Did the claimant file a timely appeal?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Two decisions finding claimant was not available for work because she was on a leave of absence were mailed to claimant's last known address of record on December 15, 2020. She did receive the decisions in the mail around the same time in late 2020, though she does not recall exactly when she received them. The first sentence of the decision states, "If this decision denies benefits and is not reversed on appeal, it may result in an overpayment which you will be required to repay."

The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by December 25, 2020. The appeal was not filed until October 13, 2021, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision. Claimant explained that she read the decision but was not concerned about appealing at that time. However, she did disagree with

the statement that she was not available for work. Claimant ultimately filed her appeal after receiving the two overpayment decisions.

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

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

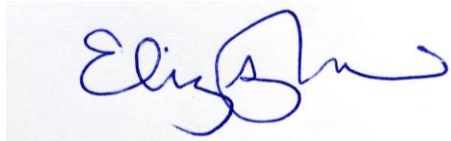
The Iowa Supreme Court has declared that there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and that the administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. IDJS*, 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).

Here, the claimant received the decision in the mail and, therefore, had an opportunity to file an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. While the administrative law judge understands that claimant may have misunderstood the process for how to proceed if she disagreed with the decision, she did not rely on any incorrect agency advice in failing to appeal. Claimant simply

chose not to appeal at all. 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 (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

**DECISION:**

The December 15, 2020, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect.



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Elizabeth A. Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau

December 17, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

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