

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CESAR Y ALMENDAREZ
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 22A-UI-07794-JC-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

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

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant, Cesar Y. Almendarez, filed an appeal from the March 14, 2022 (reference 04) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision that established an overpayment of FPUC benefits. After proper notice, a telephone hearing was held on May 12, 2022. The hearing was held together with Appeals 22A-UI-07789-JC-T and 22A-UI-07792-JC-T. The claimant participated personally. Briana Reyes testified for the claimant. Official notice of the administrative record was taken. Department Exhibit 1 was admitted. Based on the evidence, the arguments presented, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUES:

Is the appeal timely?
Was the claimant overpaid FPUC benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant filed for and received \$674.00 in regular unemployment insurance benefits for the period between January 17, 2021 and January 30, 2021. Claimant also received supplemental FPUC benefits in the amount of \$600.00 for the period between January 17, 2021 and January 30, 2021. The initial decision denying benefits to the claimant for this period has been affirmed in Appeal 22A-UI-07789-JC-T.

An initial decision (reference 04) was mailed to the claimant/appellant’s address of record on March 14, 2022. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be filed by March 24, 2022. Claimant received the initial decision within the appeal period.

The decision also directed the appellant to call the customer service line for assistance. Claimant contacted IWD for guidance and left a voicemail. IWD returned claimant’s call but claimant missed the phone call. Claimant did not follow up with IWD.

Claimant's appeal was not delayed due to agency or postal service error. The appeal was filed on March 31, 2022 (Department Exhibit 1).

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to address is whether the appeal is timely.

Iowa law states that an unemployment insurance decision is final unless a party appeals the decision within ten days after the decision was mailed to the party's last known address. See Iowa Code § 96.6(2).

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

Date of submission and extension of time for payments and notices.

(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.

a. For submission that is not within the statutory or regulatory period to be considered timely, the interested party must submit a written explanation setting forth the circumstances of the delay.

b. The division shall designate personnel who are to decide whether an extension of time shall be granted.

c. No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the department after considering the circumstances in the case.

d. If submission is not considered timely, although the interested party contends that the delay was due to division error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States postal service, the division shall issue an appealable decision to the interested party.

The ten calendar days for appeal begins running on the mailing date. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the representative's decision, unless otherwise corrected immediately below that entry, is presumptive evidence of the date of mailing. *Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev.*, 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); *Johnson v. Board of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

The record in this case shows that more than ten calendar days elapsed between the mailing date and the date this appeal was filed. 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). 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. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

Based on the evidence presented, the administrative law judge concludes that claimant's delay in appealing *was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service* pursuant to Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2). The administrative

law judge further concludes that the appeal was not timely filed pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6(2), and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal. See, *Beardslee v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979). The appeal is dismissed because it was not timely filed.

This decision determines you are overpaid benefits, and the administrative law judge lacks authority to waive the overpayment. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.

Additionally, instructions for requesting a waiver of this overpayment can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment-and-recovery>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.

DECISION:

The March 14, 2022 (reference 04) Iowa Workforce Development ("IWD") unemployment insurance decision that established an overpayment of benefits is affirmed. The appeal was not timely filed and is dismissed.



Jennifer L. Beckman
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax 515-478-3528

May 24, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/scn

NOTE TO CLAIMANT:

You may find additional information about food, housing, and other resources by dialing 211 or at:

<https://covidrecoveryiowa.org/>
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/node/3250>,
<https://www.211iowa.org/>

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA):

<https://www.samhsa.gov/> or
Phone: 1-800-273-8255