

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

HOLLY BROCKERT
Claimant

NEW CHOICES INCORPORATED
Employer

APPEAL 20A-UI-01498-S1-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 01/05/20
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer filed a timely appeal from the February 14, 2020, reference 02, decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on March 6, 2020. The claimant did not provide a telephone number and, therefore, did not participate in the hearing. The employer participated by Cindy Hazelwood, Office Manager. Department's Exhibit D-1 was received into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the employer filed a timely protest.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective January 5, 2020. The employer has opted to participate in the multistate SIDES program, and so a notification of claim was transmitted to the employer on January 22, 2020. The notice contained a warning that a protest must be received by the Agency by February 3, 2020. The protest was not filed until it was transmitted on February 11, 2020, which is after the due date. The employer thought the protest might have been late because she forgot to press send.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant.

Another portion of this same Code section dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states that such an appeal must be filed within ten days after notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979).

The administrative law judge considers the reasoning and holding of that court in that decision to be controlling on this portion of that same Iowa Code section which deals with a time limit in which to file a protest after notification of the filing of the claim has been mailed. The employer has not shown any good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit. Forgetting to send the document is not good cause for filing a late protest. Therefore, the administrative law judge is without jurisdiction to entertain any appeal regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law. *The delay was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 4.35(2)*. The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to timely protest 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 claimant's separation from employment. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979); *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979) and *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company v. Employment Appeal Board*, 465 N.W.2d 674 (Iowa App. 1990).

DECISION:

The February 14, 2020, reference 02, decision is affirmed. The employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect.

Beth A. Scheetz
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/scn