

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**JANICE L GUSTER**  
Claimant

**QUAD CITIES CHILD  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**  
Employer

**APPEAL NO: 10A-UI-05965-ST**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 08/23/09**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-2-a – Discharge  
Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant appealed a department decision dated April 7, 2010, reference 02, that held she was discharged for misconduct on February 17, 2009, and benefits are denied. A telephone hearing was held on June 10, 2010. The claimant participated. The employer did not participate. Claimant Exhibit A was received as evidence.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the claimant filed a timely appeal.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge having heard the testimony of the witness, and having considered the evidence in the record, finds: The claimant received the department decision issued April 7, 2010 on Friday, April 16, but she failed to note the appeal deadline date of April 17. Since the deadline date fell on a Saturday, the claimant is given until Monday, April 19, to file a timely appeal. The claimant submitted an appeal to the department on April 20 that was faxed to Unemployment Appeals on the same date. The claimant could have submitted a written appeal by letter on or before April 19.

Since the claimant has not earned any wages for insured work since her employment separation from the employer on February 17, 2009, she has failed to re-qualify for benefits.

The employer failed to respond to the hearing notice.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.6-2 provides in pertinent part:

The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week

with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. . . . Unless 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.

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).

Pursuant to rules 871 IAC 26.2(96)(1) and 871 IAC 24.35(96)(1), appeals are considered filed when postmarked, if mailed. Messina v. IDJS, 341 N.W.2d 52 (Iowa 1983).

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. 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). 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. IESC, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); Smith v. IESC, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

(1) The record shows that the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant failed to file a timely appeal.

The claimant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a more timely appeal by noting the deadline date and reading the appeal instructions. The claimant offered no good cause for her appeal delay.

**DECISION:**

The department decision dated April 7, 2010, reference 02, is affirmed. The claimant failed to file a timely appeal, and the department decision she was discharged for misconduct on

February 17, 2009 remains in force and effect. Benefits are denied until the claimant requalifies by working in and being paid wages for insured work equal to ten times her weekly benefit amount, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

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Randy L. Stephenson  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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