

IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI

STEVEN D BALASKI
880 NE AURORA AVE
DES MOINES IA 50313

LABOR READY MIDWEST INC
c/o PAYROLL TAX DEPT
PO BOX 2910
TACOMA WA 98401 2910

Appeal Number: 05A-UI-04319-DWT
OC: 02/27/05 R: 02
Claimant: Appellant (1)

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.**

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.

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.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Steven D. Balaski (claimant) appealed a representative's April 4, 2005 decision (reference 02) that concluded he was not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits, and the account of Labor Ready Midwest, Inc. (employer) would not be charged because the claimant voluntarily quit his employment for reasons that do not qualify him to receive unemployment insurance benefits. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on May 16, 2005. Neither party participated in the hearing. Based on the administrative record and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

ISSUE:

Did the claimant file a timely appeal or establish a legal excuse for filing a late appeal?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits during the week of February 27, 2005. On April 4, 2005, a representative's decision was mailed to the claimant and employer indicating the claimant was not qualified to receive unemployment insurance benefits. The decision also informed the parties that the decision was final unless an appeal was filed on or before April 14, 2005.

The record does not reveal when the claimant received the representative's decision. On April 21, 2005, the claimant filed his appeal.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Unless the claimant or other interested party, after notification or within ten calendar days after a representative's decision is mailed to the parties' last-known address, files an appeal from the decision, the decision is final. Benefits shall then be paid or denied in accordance with the representative's decision. Iowa Code § 96.6-2. 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 Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that appeals from unemployment insurance decisions must be filed within the time limit set by statute and the administrative law judge has no authority to review a decision if a timely appeal is not filed. Franklin v. IDJS, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979); Beardslee v. IDJS, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979). In this case, the claimant's appeal was filed after the April 14, 2005 deadline for appealing expired.

The next question is whether the claimant had a reasonable opportunity to file 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). The record does not establish when the claimant received the decision. The record also fails to show that the claimant had any legal excuse for filing a late appeal. 871 IAC 24.35(2). Since the claimant did not file a timely appeal or establish a legal excuse for filing a late appeal, the Appeals Section has no legal jurisdiction to make a decision on the merits of the appeal.

DECISION:

The representative's April 4, 2005 decision (reference 02) is affirmed. The claimant did not file a timely appeal or establish a legal excuse for filing a late appeal. The Appeals Section has no jurisdiction to address the merits of his appeal. This means the claimant is disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits as of February 27, 2005. This disqualification continues until he has been paid ten times his weekly benefit amount for insured work, provided he is otherwise eligible. The employer's account will not be charged.

dlw/sc