

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**SARAH E LEAR**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-06503-LJ-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 03/14/21  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment  
PL 116-136, Sec. 2102 – Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On March 15, 2022, Sarah E. Lear (claimant/appellant) appealed the decision dated December 10, 2021 (reference 01) that concluded the claimant was overpaid Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits in the amount of \$609.00 for the three-week period ending July 11, 2020, due to a duplicate payment being issued in error.

A telephone hearing was held at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, pursuant to due notice. The hearing was held together with Appeal 22A-UI-06507-LJ-T. Claimant Sarah E. Lear participated personally. Department Exhibits D-1, D-2, and D-3 were admitted into the record. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUE:**

Was the appeal timely?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The decision finding claimant was overpaid PUA benefits was mailed to her last known address of record on December 10, 2021. She did receive the decision within ten days. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by December 20, 2021. The appeal was not filed until March 15, 2022, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision. Claimant explained that she failed to read the decision and notice there was a deadline for appealing. She also chose to apply for a waiver first, instead of exercising her appeal rights.

**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:

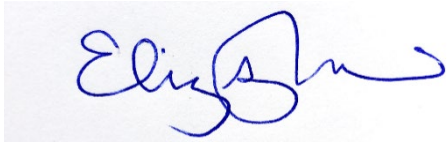
2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission 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. 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 simply failed to carefully read the decision she received and exercise her appeal rights. 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 10, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal was not timely filed. The decision of the representative remains in effect.



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Elizabeth A. Johnson  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau

April 28, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

lj/lj