

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

BRET W MAYER
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 12A-UI-13972-ST

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

KURT BILL
Employer

**OC: 08/19/12
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Section 5-2-a – Discharge
Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed a department decision dated September 12, 2012, reference 01, that held it failed to establish misconduct in the discharge of the claimant on August 21, 2012, and benefits are allowed. A telephone hearing was held on December 24, 2012. The claimant and the employer did not participate. Employer Exhibit One was received as evidence.

ISSUE:

Whether the employer filed a timely appeal.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge having considered the evidence in the record, finds: The department mailed the decision to the employer's representative address of record on September 12, 2012 with an appeal deadline date of September 22. The employer received the department statement of charges statement mailed November 9. The employer submitted an appeal on November 14 to the department charge back unit on November 14.

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).

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

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

The employer failed to submit its appeal within the ten-day period required by law. The employer failed to establish a good cause for the appeal delay.

DECISION:

The department decision dated September 12, 2012, reference 01, is affirmed. The employer failed to file a timely appeal. The department decision that the employer discharged the claimant on August 21, 2012 for no misconduct remains in force and affect. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

Randy L. Stephenson
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

rls/tll