

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**NANCY REZKALLA**  
Claimant

**ANJANI HOLDING COMPANY LLC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 21A-UI-16545-DZ-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 03/22/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal  
Iowa Code §96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct  
Iowa Code §96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Nancy Rezkalla, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the September 2, 2020, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied REGULAR unemployment insurance benefits based on a July 5, 2020 voluntary quit. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 20, 2021. Ms. Rezkalla participated and testified through an Arabic interpreter employed by CTS Language Link. The employer participated through Amy Hayes. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

**ISSUES:**

Is Ms. Rezkalla's appeal filed on time?  
Did Ms. Rezkalla voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to Ms. Rezkalla at the correct address on September 2, 2020. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Appeals Section by September 12, 2020.

Ms. Rezkalla received the decision in the mail, but she did not remember when she got the decision. On September 9, 2020, Ms. Rezkalla applied for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. In her application, Ms. Rezkalla wrote that she had quit her job with the employer because she had two children who were doing online schooling, she was afraid of testing positive for COVID-19 and her husband was working full-time.

IWD issued two different decisions finding Ms. Rezkalla was overpaid benefits. Those decisions were both dated July 27, 2021 (reference 02), and (reference 03). Ms. Rezkalla received those decisions in the mail.

Ms. Rezkalla filed an appeal online on July 29, 2021. The appeal was received by Iowa Workforce Development on July 29, 2021.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the Ms. Rezkalla's appeal of the September 2, 2020 (reference 01) decision was not filed on time.

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).

Ms. Rezkalla received the decision in the mail before the deadline and, therefore, could have filed an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. The notice provision of the decision was valid. Ms. Rezkalla decided to apply for PUA benefits instead of appeal the September 2, 2020, (reference 01) decision. Ms. Rezkalla's delay in filing her appeal of the September 2, 2020, (reference 01) before the September 12, 2020 deadline 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 in filing her appeal before the deadline. Ms. Rezkalla's appeal of the September 2, 2020, (reference 01) was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issues in this matter.

**DECISION:**

Ms. Rezkalla's appeal of the September 2, 2020, (reference 01) was not filed on time. The September 2, 2020, (reference 01) decision is affirmed.



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Daniel Zeno  
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September 23, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

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