

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

KATIE M HODGE
Claimant

VOLT MANAGEMENT CORP
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-05570-SC-T
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 12/22/19
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Ability to and Availability for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22 – Able & Available - Benefits Eligibility Conditions
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(26) – Available – Part-time Same Wages and Hours
Iowa Code § 96.19(38) – Total, Partial, and Temporary Unemployment
Iowa Code § 96.7(2)a(2) – Employer Chargeability
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On February 19, 2021, Katie M. Hodge (claimant) filed an appeal from the January 28, 2021, reference 02, unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits effective November 29, 2020, based upon the determination she was still employed in the same hours and wages with Volt Management Corp. (employer) and was not able to and available for work. After due notice was issued, a telephone hearing was held on May 13, 2021. The claimant participated. The employer did not respond to the hearing notice and did not participate. The department's Exhibits D1 and D2 were admitted into the record.

ISSUE:

Is the claimant's appeal timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant works at a plant that shuts down during the week between Christmas and New Year. She filed her initial claim for benefits effective December 22, 2019 and reactivated the claim effective November 29, 2020. That claim year expired on December 20, 2020.

When the claimant was laid off during the 2020 holiday season, she filed a new claim for benefits effective December 27, 2020. The claimant is currently approved for the benefits, but they have not been released because she needs to verify her identity. The claimant needs to contact customer service to verify her identity to receive benefits for the week ending January 2, 2021.

On January 28, 2021, Iowa Workforce Development (agency) mailed a disqualification decision to the claimant's last known address of record. The decision denied benefits during the

December 22, 2019 claim year from November 29 through December 20, 2020, when the claim expired. She received the decision within ten days. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by Sunday, February 7, 2021, which was extended to Monday, February 8. The appeal was not filed until February 19, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision, because the claimant was 9-months pregnant and forgot to file the appeal.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's appeal is untimely.

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides, in pertinent part:

Filing – determination – appeal.

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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2) provides:

Date of submission and extension of time for payments and notices.

(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.

a. For submission that is not within the statutory or regulatory period to be considered timely, the interested party must submit a written explanation setting forth the circumstances of the delay.

b. The division shall designate personnel who are to decide whether an extension of time shall be granted.

c. No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the department after considering the circumstances in the case.

d. If submission is not considered timely, although the interested party contends that the delay was due to division error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States postal service, the division shall issue an appealable decision to the interested party.

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. Bd. of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 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. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 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 claimant filed the appeal after the deadline. She has not established that the failure to file a timely appeal was due to any error by or misinformation from the agency or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2). As the appeal was not timely filed, the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal. See *Beardslee v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

DECISION:

The January 28, 2021, reference 02, unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect.



Stephanie R. Callahan
Administrative Law Judge

May 21, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

src/kmj

Note to Claimant: You have not received benefits for the week ending January 2, 2021 because IWD needs to verify your identity on the new claim filed effective December 27, 2020. For additional information about how to verify your identity, see the claimant handbook, specifically <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/steps-responsibilities-file-unemployment-insurance-claim>. You may also contact customer service at 866-239-0843 or uicclaimshelp@iwd.iowa.gov.