

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

---

**KATIE D MANSON**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 22A-UI-04299-JT-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**BRANDENBURG INDUSTRIAL SERVICE CO**  
Employer

**OC: 05/02/21**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

---

Iowa Code Section 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal  
Iowa Code Section 96.4(3) – Able & Available

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On February 8, 2022, Katie Manson (claimant) filed a late appeal from the October 25, 2021 (reference 05) decision that denied benefits effective May 2, 2021, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on March 21, 2022. Claimant participated. The employer did not comply with the hearing notice instructions to call the designated toll-free number at the time of the hearing and did not participate. Exhibit A, the online appeal, was received into evidence. The administrative law judge took official notice of the following Agency administrative records: DBRO, KCCO, NMRO, WAGE-A and the October 25, 2021 (reference 05) decision.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the appeal was timely. Whether there is good cause to treat the appeal as timely.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

On October 25, 2021, Iowa Workforce Development mailed the four decisions to the claimant at her Manchester last-known address of record. The claimant received the decisions, including the reference 05 decision, in a timely manner, prior to the deadline for appeal. All four decisions denied benefits. The reference 05 decision denied benefits effective May 2, 2021, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence from her employment with Brandenburg Industrial Service Company, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work. The referenced 05 decision stated the decision would become final unless an appeal was postmarked by November 4, 2021 or was received by the Appeals Section by that date. The other three adverse decisions had the same appeal deadline. The claimant did not take steps to file an appeal from the reference 05 decision or from the other three adverse decisions by the appeal deadline. On February 8, 2022, the claimant completed and transmitted an online appeal from the reference 05 decision. The Appeals Bureau received the appeal on February 8, 2022.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 96.6(2) provides:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. 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. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of section 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to section 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsections 10 and 11, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to section 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". 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. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

The ten-day deadline for appeal begins to run on the date Workforce Development mails the decision to the parties. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the Agency 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).

An appeal submitted by mail is deemed filed 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 was 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. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(1)(a). See also *Messina v. IDJS*, 341 N.W.2d 52 (Iowa 1983). An appeal submitted by any other means is deemed filed on the date it is received by the Unemployment Insurance Division of Iowa Workforce Development. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(1)(b).

The evidence in the record establishes 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). One 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).

No submission shall be considered timely if the delay in filing was unreasonable, as determined by the division after considering the circumstances in the case. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(2)(c).

The claimant's February 8, 2022 appeal from the reference 05 decision was untimely. The claimant received the reference 05 decision in a timely manner, had a reasonable opportunity to file an appeal by the appeal deadline, but unreasonably delayed filing the appeal to February 8, 2022. The late filing of the appeal was not attributable to the Iowa Workforce Development error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. There is not good cause to treat the late appeal as a timely appeal. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(2). Because the appeal was untimely, administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to disturb the reference 05 decision. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

**DECISION:**

The claimant's appeal from the October 25, 2021 (reference 05) decision was untimely. The decision that denied benefits effective May 2, 2021, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work, remains in effect.

Note: the reference 05 decision pertains only to the benefit week that ended May 8, 2021. The reference 05 decision should have no impact on the additional claims that were effective September 19, 2021 and January 2, 2022.



---

James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge

March 31, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/jh