

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**ADELAIDA STARCUISE**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-11070-BT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**TYSON FRESH MEATS INC**  
Employer

**OC: 08/24/14**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.4-3 - Able and Available for Work  
Iowa Code § 96.6-2 - Timeliness of Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Adelaida Starcruiser (claimant) appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated September 29, 2014, (reference 01), which held that she was not available to work because she is working too many hours with Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc. (employer) to be considered unemployed. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on November 13, 2014. The claimant participated in the hearing with her husband Tracy and daughter Roxanne. The employer participated through Shannon Wehr, Human Resources Clerk. Exhibit D-1 was admitted into evidence.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the claimant filed a timely appeal or established a legal excuse for filing a late appeal.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having heard the testimony and considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: A disqualification decision was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record on September 29, 2014. The claimant received the decision. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Section by October 9, 2014. The appeal was not filed until October 21, 2014, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The law states that an unemployment insurance decision is final unless a party appeals the decision within ten days after the decision was mailed to the party's last-known address. Iowa Code § 96.6-2. The unemployment insurance rules provide that if the failure to file a timely appeal was due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service, it would be considered timely. 871 IAC 24.35(2). Without timely notice of a disqualification, no meaningful opportunity for appeal exists. See *Smith v. Iowa Employment Security Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

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 that failure to file a timely appeal within the time prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 24.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the appeal was not timely filed pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6-2, and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal. 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 in this case was not timely. The unemployment insurance decision dated September 29, 2014, (reference 01), is affirmed. Benefits are denied.

---

Susan D. Ackerman  
Administrative Law Judge

---

Decision Dated and Mailed

sda/css