

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CHRISTINE M COCKERHAM

Claimant

KUM & GO LC

Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-17061-AW-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/09/21

Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Filing – Timely Appeal

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35 – Filing

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Claimant filed an appeal from the July 20, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on September 24, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Stephanie Perry, General Manager. No exhibits were admitted. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Whether claimant filed a timely appeal.

Whether claimant's separation was a discharge for disqualifying job-related misconduct.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to claimant at the correct address on July 20, 2021. Claimant received the decision but does not recall the date of receipt. Mail from Des Moines, Iowa is typically received in Des Moines, Iowa within four days. Claimant has no reason to believe that was not the case for the decision mailed on July 20, 2021.

The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by July 30, 2021. Claimant appealed the decision online on August 3, 2021. Claimant's appeal was received by Iowa Workforce Development on August 3, 2021. Claimant gave a few reasons for the delay in submitting the appeal. Claimant may have been traveling out of state for a family emergency. Claimant and her daughter had Covid-19. Claimant lost the decision. Claimant called Iowa Workforce Development to find out how to file the appeal.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

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). 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).

Claimant received the decision prior to the appeal deadline but did not appeal the decision until after the deadline. Claimant's delay was not due to agency error or misinformation or delay of the United States Postal Service. The appeal was not timely. Therefore, the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal.

DECISION:

Claimant's appeal was not timely. The administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of the representative. The July 20, 2021 (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed.



Adrienne C. Williamson
Administrative Law Judge
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September 29, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

acw/kmj