

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**RANDY LE'DAY**  
Claimant

**LAKESIDE CONTRACTORS LLC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 18A-UI-10365-H2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 08/12/18  
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed an appeal from the October 12, 2018, (reference 04) that found the employer's notice of protest untimely and allowed benefits for the claimant. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on October 30, 2018. Claimant did not participate. Employer participated through Morgan Eller, Controller. Official notice was taken of agency records. Department's Exhibit D-1 was admitted into the record.

**ISSUE:**

Did the employer file a timely notice of protest?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant's notice of claim was mailed to employer's address of record on September 10, 2018, and was received by employer within a few days after that. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked, faxed or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. The notice of claim specifically provided that a response was due by September 20, 2018. Employer did not file a protest until October 2, 2018, which is after the ten-day period had expired. The employer's protest was late because they were moving offices and the notice of claim was set aside and mixed into another set of papers and forgotten about. When Ms. Eller found the notice of claim during the move, she filed her notice of protest even though it was after the time period for filing a protest had expired.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law.

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

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.

Another portion of this same Code section dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states that such an appeal must be filed within ten days after notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979).

The administrative law judge considers the reasoning and holding of that court in that decision to be controlling on this portion of that same Iowa Code section which deals with a time limit in which to file a protest after notification of the filing of the claim has been mailed. The employer has not shown any good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit. Therefore, the administrative law judge is without jurisdiction to entertain any appeal regarding the separation from employment.

The employer's notice of protest was late because it was mislaid amongst other papers by the employer. *The delay was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 4.35(2)*. The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to timely protest 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 claimant's termination of employment. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979); *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979) and *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company v. Employment Appeal Board*, 465 N.W.2d 674 (Iowa App. 1990).

**DECISION:**

The October 12, 2018, (reference 04) decision is affirmed. Employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs