

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**LAURA L INMAN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 18A-UI-01941-TNT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**KARMA HOSPITALITY LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 12/24/17**  
**Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Section 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Karma Hospitality LLC, filed an appeal from a representative's decision dated January 31, 2018, reference 01, that allowed benefits and found the employer's protest untimely. After due notice was provided, a telephone conference hearing was held on March 8, 2018. Although duly notified, the claimant did not participate. The employer participated by Mr. Sunial Verma, General Manager.

**ISSUE:**

Whether the employer's protest of the claim for benefits was timely.  
Whether good cause existed for the late filing of the protest.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: a notice of claim filed on Laura L. Inman was mailed to the employer's last known address of record on January 2, 2018 and received by the employer at its address of record in ten days. The decision contained a warning that a due date for a protest was January 12, 2018. The employer filed its protest on January 19, 2018, which is after the ten day statutory limit and the due date set forth on the notice of claim.

The notice of claim was sent to the address of record chosen by the employer. At the time that the notice of claim was sent to the employer's address of record, the company owners were out of country and did not return until approximately January 19, 2018. When the notice of claim was forwarded to Mr. Verma, who completed it and forwarded it to Iowa Workforce Development that day. The company owners made no arrangements to have official correspondence forwarded or handled in their absence.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code § 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 protest regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes the employer failed to effect a timely protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law, and 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 24.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to effect a timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code section 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 decision of the representative dated January 31, 2018, reference 01, is affirmed. The employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect. Benefits are allowed, provided Laura Inman satisfies all other conditions of eligibility.

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Terry P. Nice  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

tn/scn