

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JUDITH PETIT HOMME
Claimant

APPEAL 21R-DUA-01417-S2-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

OC: 06/21/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal
PL 116-136, Sec. 2102 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On November 30, 2020, claimant Judith Petit Home filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development decision dated October 13, 2021 that determined claimant was not eligible for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits. A telephone hearing was scheduled for February 2, 2021. No hearing was held because appellant was not available at the telephone number provided for the scheduled hearing. On February 16, 2021, a default decision was issued dismissing the appeal. On February 23, 2021, claimant appealed to the Employment Appeal Board (EAB). On March 29, 2021, the EAB remanded this matter to the Appeals Bureau for a hearing on the merits. Upon remand, due notice was issued and a telephone hearing was held on June 15, 2021. Claimant participated personally. Department's Exhibit D-1 was received. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Is claimant's appeal is timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A disqualification decision was mailed to claimant's last known address of record on October 14, 2020. She received the decision within ten days. The decision contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by October 24, 2021. The appeal was not filed until November 30, 2020, which is after the date noticed on the disqualification decision. Claimant testified the delay in filing an appeal was due to her moving in September 2020. Claimant contacted Iowa Workforce Development on October 13, 2020 to update her address. The decision was mailed to the updated address where claimant continues to reside.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

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

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, subsection 10, 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 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. Bd. of Adjustment*, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

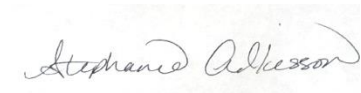
The record in this case shows that more than ten calendar days elapsed between the mailing date and the date this appeal was filed. The Iowa Supreme Court has declared that there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and that the administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 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. Iowa Dep't of Job Serv.*, 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. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. Iowa Emp't Sec. Comm'n*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

The record shows that the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal. Claimant attributed her delay in filing the appeal to her move, but she notified IWD of her new address the day before the decision was mailed. The decision was mailed to the correct address, and claimant timely received it. The failure to file a timely appeal within the time prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law was not due to any Iowa Workforce Development error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. See Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-24.35(2). Accordingly, there is not good cause to treat the late appeal as a timely appeal. Because the appeal was untimely, the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal or to disturb the decision from which the claimant appealed. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

DECISION:

The October 13, 2020, (reference 04) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect.



Stephanie Adkisson
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
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June 29, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

sa/mh