

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**JOSHUA R JOHSON**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-09206-H2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**JERSEY'S LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 05/19/13  
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer filed an appeal from the July 31, 2013, (reference 01) unemployment insurance decision that found the employer's notice of protest untimely and allowed benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held on September 16, 2013. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Brenda Waldorf, Owner. Department's Exhibit D-1 was entered and received into the record.

**ISSUE:**

Did the employer file a timely notice of protest?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The employer chose the address of 2818 Highway 67 South, Comanche, Iowa 52730 as the address where they wanted to receive any mail from IWD. Claimant's notice of claim was mailed to employer's address of record on July 10, 2013, and was received by employer within ten days. 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 or July 22, 2013. Employer did not file a protest until July 24, 2013, which is after the ten-day period had expired. The employer does not check that mailbox but once or twice per month which is why their protest was late. The employer has the ability to choose any address they want their mail sent to. Since the employer failed to check the mail at the address they chose, the late filing of the protest is not excused. No good cause reason has been established for the delay.

**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 § 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 § 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 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 July 31, 2013, (reference 01) 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. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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