

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ISAIAH A LEWIS
Claimant

ADVANCE SERVICES INC
Employer

APPEAL 21A-UI-08993-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/17/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct
Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able to and Available for Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Isiah A Lewis, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the September 28, 2020, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied REGULAR unemployment insurance benefits as of May 18, 2020. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on June 9, 2021. Mr. Lewis participated and testified. The employer participated through Melissa Lewien, risk management.

ISSUES:

Is Mr. Lewis' appeal filed on time?
Was Mr. Lewis laid off, discharged for misconduct or did he voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer?
Is Mr. Lewis able to and available for work?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to Mr. Lewis at the correct address on September 28, 2020. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by October 8, 2020. Mr. Lewis moved to Illinois in September 2020. Mr. Lewis' mailed was delayed. He contacted the United States Postal Service and received his mail in January 2021. Mr. Lewis filled an appeal online on March 30, 2021. The appeal was received by Iowa Workforce Development on March 30, 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes Mr. Lewis' appeal was not filed on time.

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).

Mr. Lewis did not receive the decision in the mail before the deadline and, therefore, could not have filed an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. The notice provision of the decision was invalid. However, Mr. Lewis did receive his mail in January 2021 but did not file his appeal until at least two months later. Mr. Lewis' delay in filing his appeal was not due to an error or misinformation from the Department or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. No good cause reason has been established for the delay. Mr. Lewis' appeal was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

DECISION:

Mr. Lewis' appeal was not filed on time. The September 28, 2020, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge
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June 23, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/mh