

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

JULIE A PORTER
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-15356-DH-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Employer

**OC: 03/22/20
Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a - Discharge for Misconduct
Iowa Code § 96.5(1) - Voluntary Quitting
Iowa Code § 96.4(3) - Able and Available to Work

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On July 20, 2022, Julie Porter, claimant/appellant, appealed from the March 23, 2021, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits as of 01/26/21 due to claimant's voluntary quit. Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last known addresses of record for a telephone hearing scheduled for August 29, 2022, at 9:00AM. Employer, Iowa State University, participated through Ms. Lauren Anson, human resources business partner, and Mr. Thomas Durson, party representative. Claimant personally participated. The following hearings were held together as part of a consolidated hearing: Appeals 22A-UI-15356-DH-T; and 22A-UI-15357-DH-T. Judicial notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Is claimant's appeal timely?
Is the claimant able to and available for work?
Is the claimant still employed at the same hours and wages?
Is the claimant totally, partially, or temporarily unemployed?
Is the employer's account subject to charge?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds:

Claimant's appeal is dated July 20, 2022. To be timely, the appeal needed to be filed on or before April 2, 2021, the first nonholiday weekday ten days after the mailing date. The decision was mailed to claimant's last known addresses on March 23, 2021, which is the same address she currently uses. Claimant received the 03/23/21 decision in March 2021 but does not specifically recall when she received it as it was a busy time as she was dealing with obtaining legal custody of her young grandchild during that time. Claimant was positive she received the decision, but also positive she does not recall getting the decision. Claimant provided no reason for nor appealing other than being preoccupied with the custody matter. Stating that one does not recall

getting the decision is not the same as stating they did not get the decision. Claimant received the 05/31/22 (reference 03) decision 06/14/22 and submitted her appeal on 07/20/22.

Claimant was a full-time custodian for employer, with a set schedule, starting 10/05/20. It was a temporary position, created due to COVID-19, which resulted in the need for greater cleaning. At the time of hire, the end date was unknown. Claimant's last day worked was 12/07/20. Claimant was too ill to work and did not work beginning 12/08/20 through 01/26/21 when she submitted her resignation. Claimant emailed her supervision her resignation on 01/26/21, effective that date, unless the employer wanted her to work the next two weeks. Employer accepted the resignation and accepted it effective immediately, as claimant offered. Claimant advised that she remained too sick to work and only became well enough to return to work (if she had work to return to) sometime in mid-February 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the appellant's appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is not timely under the two possible scenarios in this matter.

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).

Claimant testified while she would have received the decision in March 2021 but does not recall getting the decision back then. Therefore, there are two possible scenarios. Scenario one is Claimant received the decision in March 2021 (which is before the 04/02/21 deadline), and scenario two is not receiving the decision at all.

If scenario one, then claimant received the decision in the mail on or before the deadline and, therefore, had an opportunity to file an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. Claimant's delay 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 other good cause reason has been established for the delay. Claimant's appeal dated 07/20/22 was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

If scenario two, then 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. 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). 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. IESC*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. IESC*, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

Under scenario two, the record shows that the appellant did not receive the decision. The first she became aware of the disqualification was the overpayment decision she received June 14, 2022, which is after the appeal deadline. Claimant waited 36 days to file her appeal on the overpayment decision on July 20, 2022. This is beyond 10 days from receiving the decision.

Under scenario two, the administrative law judge concludes that her failure to file a timely appeal after receiving notice of the decision 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 appeal was not timely filed 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 appeal. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

Under either possible scenario, claimant did not file a timely appeal in this matter. A good cause reason was not established for the delay. Her choice was to not file an appeal in this matter. The appeal that was submitted was untimely. The administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

DECISION:

The March 23, 2021, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that denied benefits as of 01/26/21 remains in effect as the appeal in this case was not timely, and the appeal is **DISMISSED**.



Darrin T. Hamilton
Administrative Law Judge

October 3, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

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APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.