

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**ANTHONYJ WORLEY**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-09991-SWT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**LIDLAW TRANSIT INC**  
Employer

**OC: 05/17/09**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-1 – Voluntary Quit  
Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant appealed an unemployment insurance decision dated June 19, 2009, reference 01, that concluded he voluntarily quit employment without good cause attributable to the employer. A telephone hearing was held on July 28, 2009. The parties were properly notified about the hearing. The claimant participated in the hearing. Katie McBride participated in the hearing on behalf of the employer. Exhibit A-1 was admitted into evidence at the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

Was the appeal in this case filed timely?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

An unemployment insurance decision was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record on June 19, 2009. The decision concluded he voluntarily quit employment without good cause attributable to the employer and stated the decision was final unless a written appeal was postmarked or received by the Appeals Section by June 29, 2009.

The claimant received the decision within the ten-day period for appealing the decision. He filed a written appeal on July 13, 2009, which is after the time period for appealing had expired. The claimant delayed in filing his appeal because he did not understand the process. About a week after he received the decision, he contacted a Workforce Development advisor and was told that he needed to file a written appeal. He waited a few days later to file his appeal.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The issue in this case is whether the claimant filed a timely appeal. A decision becomes final if not appealed within 10 days after the decision was mailed to the party's last-known address. Iowa Code section 96.6-2.

The Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that appeals from unemployment decisions must be filed within the time limit set by statute and the administrative law judge has no authority to review a

decision if a timely appeal is not filed. Franklin v. IDJS, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979); Beardslee v. IDJS, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979). In this case, the claimant's appeal was filed after the deadline for appealing expired.

The next question is whether the claimant had a reasonable opportunity to file 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). The claimant filed his appeal late because he did not understand the process. The claimant had a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

The failure to file a timely appeal was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service, which under 871 IAC 24.35(2) would excuse the delay in filing an appeal. Since the appeal was not filed timely, there is no jurisdiction to make a decision on the merits of the appeal.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated June 19, 2009, reference 01, is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the unemployment insurance decision disqualifying the claimant from receiving benefits remains in effect.

---

Steven A. Wise  
Administrative Law Judge

---

Decision Dated and Mailed

saw/pjs