

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**RENE R SAMANIEGO**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 21A-UI-24505-AD-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 05/03/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Filing – Timely Appeal  
PL116-136, Sec. 2104(f)(2) – Overpayment of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On November 4, 2021, Rene Samaniego (claimant/appellant) filed an appeal from the decision dated October 19, 2021 (reference 08) that determined claimant was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$7,200.00 for the 12-week period between May 3 and July 25, 2020 based on a decision denying benefits.

A telephone hearing was held on January 4, 2021. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. Claimant participated personally. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

**ISSUE(S):**

- I. Is the appeal timely?
- II. Was the claimant overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

The administrative record shows claimant received FPUC in the amount of \$600.00 per week for a total of 12 weeks, from the benefit week ending May 9, 2020 and continuing through the benefit week ending July 25, 2020. The total amount of FPUC paid during this period is \$7,200.00.

Claimant was subsequently determined to be ineligible for benefits effective May 3, 2020 in a decision dated January 27, 2021. That decision remains in force. See 21A-UI-04458-DB-T.

The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to claimant at the above address on October 20, 2021. That was claimant's correct address at that time. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by October 30, 2021. However, if the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. October 30, 2021 was a Saturday

so the deadline was extended to November 1, 2021. Claimant appealed the decision on November 4, 2021. Claimant did receive the decision and note the deadline to appeal. The delay in appealing was due to claimant receiving the decision just a day or two prior to the deadline.

#### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's appeal was timely. The decision dated October 19, 2021 (reference 08) that determined claimant was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$7,200.00 for the 12-week period between May 3 and July 25, 2020 based on a decision denying benefits is AFFIRMED.

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)(a) 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 on 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)
  - (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.

There is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and the Administrative Law Judge has no authority to change the decision of representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. Iowa Dept. Job Service*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979). The ten-day period for appealing an initial determination concerning a claim for benefits has been described as jurisdictional. *Messina v. Iowa Dept. of Job Service*, 341 N.W.2d 52, 55 (Iowa 1983); *Beardslee v. Iowa Dept. Job Service*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979). The only basis for changing the ten-day period would be where notice to the appealing party was constitutionally invalid. *E.g. Beardslee v. Iowa Dept. Job Service*, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979). The question in such cases becomes whether the appellant was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal in a timely fashion. *Hendren v. Iowa Employment Sec. Commission*, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); *Smith v. Iowa Employment Sec. Commission*, 212 N.W.2d 471 (Iowa 1973). The question of whether the Claimant has been denied a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal is also informed by rule 871-24.35(2) which states that “the submission of any ...appeal...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 administrative law judge finds the delay in appealing was due to error or delay of the United States Postal Service. This is a good cause reason for delay and the administrative law judge therefore concludes the appeal is timely. Because the appeal is timely, the administrative law judge has jurisdiction to address the underlying issues.

PL116-136, Sec. 2104 provides, in pertinent part:

(b) Provisions of Agreement

(1) Federal pandemic unemployment compensation.--Any agreement under this section shall provide that the State agency of the State will make payments of regular compensation to individuals in amounts and to the extent that they would be determined if the State law of the State were applied, with respect to any week for which the individual is (disregarding this section) otherwise entitled under the State law to receive regular compensation, as if such State law had been modified in a manner such that the amount of regular compensation (including dependents' allowances) payable for any week shall be equal to

(A) the amount determined under the State law (before the application of this paragraph), plus

(B) an additional amount of \$600 (in this section referred to as “Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation”).

....

(f) Fraud and Overpayments

(2) Repayment.--In the case of individuals who have received amounts of Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to which they were not entitled, the State shall require such individuals to repay the amounts of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation to the State agency, except that the State agency may waive such repayment if it determines that –

(A) the payment of such Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation was without fault on the part of any such individual; and

(B) such repayment would be contrary to equity and good conscience.

The administrative record shows claimant received FPUC in the amount of \$600.00 per week for a total of 12 weeks, from the benefit week ending May 9, 2020 and continuing through the benefit week ending July 25, 2020. The total amount of FPUC paid during this period is \$7,200.00.

Claimant was subsequently determined to be ineligible for benefits effective May 3, 2020 in a decision dated January 27, 2021. That decision remains in force. See 21A-UI-04458-DB-T.

Because the claimant is ineligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits during the period in question he is also ineligible for FPUC. He was therefore overpaid FPUC in the amount of \$7,200.00.

**DECISION:**

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant's appeal was timely. The decision dated October 19, 2021 (reference 08) that determined claimant was overpaid Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation in the amount of \$7,200.00 for the 12-week period between May 3 and July 25, 2020 based on a decision denying benefits is AFFIRMED.



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Andrew B. Duffelmeyer  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax (515) 478-3528

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January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Decision Dated and Mailed

abd/abd

**Note to Claimant:**

If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.

If this decision determines you have been overpaid federal CARES Act benefits you may request a waiver of the overpayment. Instructions for requesting a waiver can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment-and-recovery>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.

Individuals who are disqualified from or are otherwise ineligible for **regular** unemployment insurance benefits but who are unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.