

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

CHRIS J SNOWBARGER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 19A-UI-10343-B2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

AL ADL LLC
Employer

OC: 12/01/19
Claimant: Respondent (2R)

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed the representative's decision dated December 24, 2019, reference 03, that concluded it failed to file a timely protest regarding the claimant's separation of employment on November 13, 2019, and no disqualification of unemployment insurance benefits was imposed. A hearing was scheduled and held on January 23, 2020, pursuant to due notice. Employer participated by Christine Richter. Claimant failed to respond to the hearing notice and did not participate. Employer's Exhibit 1 was admitted into evidence.

ISSUE:

The issue in this matter is whether the employer's protest is timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge, having considered all of the evidence in the record, finds that: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on December 4, 2019, and received by the employer within ten days. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. The employer did not effect a protest until December 20, 2019, which is after the ten-day period had expired.

Employer stated that they first became aware of this claim on December 19, 2019 when claimant called employer to say he was being awarded benefits. Employer then called IWD as employer had not received a Notice of Claim. IWD produced a copy of the Notice of Claim which indicated the Notice was sent to 1600 University Avenue, rather than to employer's address of 2600 University Avenue.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 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.

A portion of the Iowa 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 section 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 shown good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit as the Notice was sent to the wrong address. Therefore, the administrative law judge retains jurisdiction to entertain any protest regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes the employer effected a timely protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law, and any delay in filing was due to an Agency error or misinformation pursuant to Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35(2). The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has effected a timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6-2, and the administrative law judge retains 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 decision of the representative dated December 24, 2019, reference 03, is reversed. The employer has filed a timely protest. This matter will be remanded to the fact finder for a determination of the separation issue.

Blair A. Bennett
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bab/scn