

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Section
1000 East Grand—Des Moines, Iowa 50319
DECISION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
68-0157 (7-97) – 3091078 - EI**

**JOSEPH A CHRISTENSEN
1234 N 4TH AVE SE
CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52403**

**EXPRESS SERVICES INC
PO BOX 720660
OKLAHOMA CITY OK 73172**

**Appeal Number: 05A-UI-04892-JTT
OC: 04/10/05 R: 03
Claimant: Respondent (2)**

This Decision Shall Become Final, unless within fifteen (15) days from the date below, you or any interested party appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by submitting either a signed letter or a signed written Notice of Appeal, directly to the **Employment Appeal Board, 4th Floor—Lucas Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319**.

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.

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.

YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in this appeal or you may 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. It is important that you file your claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

(Administrative Law Judge)

(Decision Dated & Mailed)

Section 96.6-2 - Timeliness of Protest

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Employer filed a timely appeal from the May 2, 2005, reference 05, decision that allowed benefits and found the protest untimely. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on May 26, 2005. The claimant participated until his phone went dead and he was disconnected from the hearing. The claimant contacted the administrative law judge after the record was closed and indicated that he had nothing more to add to the hearing. The employer did participate through Brian Collins, Unemployment Claims Assistant. Department Exhibit D-1 was received into evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: Claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on April 18, 2005. The notice of

claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked, faxed or returned by the due date set forth on the notice, which was April 28, 2005. The employer submitted the protest via facsimile. The protest was received by the Agency on April 28, 2005 at 4:42 p.m. The statement was erroneously marked as being received on April 29, 2005 and erroneously marked as being late.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The question is whether the evidence in the record establishes that the protest was a timely.

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.

871 IAC 24.8(2) provides:

24.8(96) Notifying employing units of claims filed, requests for wage and separation information, and decisions made.

24.8(2) Responding by employing units to a notice of the filing of an initial claim or a request for wage and separation information and protesting the payment of benefits.

a. The employing unit which receives a Form 65-5317, Notice of Claim, a Form 68-0221, Request for Wage and Separation Information, or a Form 68-0615, Wage Verification Request, must, within ten days of the date of the notice or request, submit to the department wage or separation information that affects the individual's rights to benefits, including any facts which disclose that the individual separated from employment voluntarily and without good cause attributable to the employer or was discharged for misconduct in connection with employment.

b. The employing unit may protest the payment of benefits if the protest is postmarked within ten days of the date of the notice of the filing of an initial claim. In the event that the tenth day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the protest period is extended to the next working day of the department. If the employing unit has filed a timely report of facts that might adversely affect the individual's benefit rights, the report shall be considered as a protest to the payment of benefits.

c. If the employing unit protests that the individual was not an employee and it is subsequently determined that the individual's name was changed, the employing unit shall be deemed to have not been properly notified and the employing unit shall again be provided the opportunity to respond to the notice of the filing of the initial claim.

d. The employing unit also has the option to mail a Form 60-0154, Notice of Separation, to the department under conditions which, in the opinion of the employing unit, may disqualify an individual from receiving benefits.

(1) The Notice of Separation, Form 60-0154, must be postmarked or received before or within ten days of the date that the Notice of Claim, Form 65-5317, was mailed to the

employer. In the event that the tenth day falls on Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the protest period is extended to the next working day of the department. If a claim for unemployment insurance benefits has not been filed, the Notice of Separation may be accepted at any time.

The evidence in the record establishes, and the administrative law judge concludes, that the employer's protest was timely. The administrative law judge found no authority in the Code of Iowa or the Iowa Workforce Development rules to support the notion that the employer's protest would have been "late" so long as it was received at the Agency's designated fax machine prior to the stroke of midnight on the day it was due, which was April 28, 2005. See Iowa Code section 96.6(2) and 871 IAC 24.(2).

DECISION:

The Agency representative's May 2, 2005, reference 05, decision is reversed. The employer's protest was timely. The fact finder should proceed accordingly.

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