

BEFORE THE  
EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD  
Lucas State Office Building  
Fourth floor  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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MAYFE PATINO

Claimant

and

COUNCIL ON SEXUAL ASSAULT &

Employer

HEARING NUMBER: 20BUI-01406

EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD  
DECISION

**NOTICE**

**THIS DECISION BECOMES FINAL** unless (1) a **request for a REHEARING** is filed with the Employment Appeal Board within **20 days** of the date of the Board's decision or, (2) a **PETITION TO DISTRICT COURT** IS FILED WITHIN **30 days** of the date of the Board's decision.

A **REHEARING REQUEST** shall state the specific grounds and relief sought. If the rehearing request is denied, a petition may be filed in **DISTRICT COURT** within **30 days** of the date of the denial.

**SECTION:** 96.6-2, 96.7-2A6

**DECISION**

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE DENIED**

The Employer appealed this case to the Employment Appeal Board. The members of the Employment Appeal Board reviewed the entire record. The Appeal Board finds it cannot affirm the administrative law judge's decision. The Employment Appeal Board **REVERSES** and **REMANDS** as set forth below.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

On September 27, 2019, a Notice of Claim was mailed to Council on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (Employer). The notice was mailed to the Employer's last known address as supplied to Iowa Workforce. The Employer's Protest was due October 7, 2019. The Employer did not receive the Notice of Claim until October 8, 2019, and subsequently faxed its appeal on October 11, 2019.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code 96.6 provides:

2. *Initial determination.* ... Unless 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.

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The ten calendar days for appeal begins running on the mailing date. The "decision date" found in the upper right-hand portion of the representative's decision, unless otherwise corrected immediately below that entry, is presumptive - but not conclusive - evidence of the date of mailing.

There is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and the Administrative Law Judge and this Board have 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."

Here the evidence establishes the Employer's late submission of its Protest was due to postal delay. Once the Notice of Claim was received on October 8th, the Employer faxed its Protest within three days, which we find reasonable given it was received after the deadline for response. For this reason, we find the Employer's Protest timely.

#### **DECISION:**

The administrative law judge's decision dated March 6, 2020 is **REVERSED & REMANDED** to the Benefits Bureau in the Workforce Development Center for a Fact-finding Interview on the merits of this case. After a decision has been reached, the representative shall issue a decision that provides the parties appeal rights.

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Ashley R. Koopmans

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James M. Strohman

AMG/fnv

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Kim D. Schmett