

**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS AND APPEALS
ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION, UI APPEALS BUREAU**

DOHN T ARMON
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-12261-DH-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 04/12/20
Claimant: Appellant (6R)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
PL 116-136, Sec. 2107 - Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation
PL 116-136, Sec. 2104 - Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On May 10, 2022, Mr. Dohn Armon, claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the April 29, 2022, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision finding claimant was overpaid a total of \$24,377.71 in benefits, to wit: \$8,179.71 in state regular unemployment benefits for 16 weeks between 04/12/20 and 08/01/20; \$5,698.00 in PEUC benefits for 11 weeks between 10/18/20 and 01/23/21; \$10,200.00 in FPUC benefits for 19 weeks between 04/12/20 and 01/23/21; and \$300.00 in LWAP benefits for the week ending 08/01/20, due to decision referenced 01 which disqualified claimant for benefits effective 04/12/2020. Notices of hearing were mailed to claimant's last known addresses of record for a telephone hearing scheduled for June 29, 2022, at 8:05AM. The department did not participate. Claimant personally participated. The following hearings were held together as part of a consolidated hearing: Appeals 22A-UI-12259-DH-T; 22A-UI-12261-DH-T; and 22A-UI-12263-DH-T. Judicial notice was taken of the administrative record, claimant's appeal and the attachments, DBIN, KPYX, Great Plains, and WAGE.

ISSUES:

Is claimant's appeal timely?
Was claimant overpaid benefits?
Was claimant overpaid PEUC benefits?
Was claimant overpaid FPUC benefits?
Was claimant overpaid LWAP benefits?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having heard the testimony and reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds:

Claimant's appeal is dated 05/10/22. To be timely, the appeal needed to be filed on or before 05/09/22 (the first nonholiday weekday ten days from the mail date). The decision was mailed to claimant's last known addresses on 04/29/22, which is the same address he currently uses.

Claimant received the decision on 05/04/22. The appeal is postmarked 05/10/22, making the appeal untimely. Claimant's explanation for being late is he put it in the mail on 05/09/22 and thought that was sufficient. The decision clearly states in part that "[t]his appeal becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked by 5/9/22 or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeal Section by that date. The appeal was received on 05/11/22 and postmarked 05/10/22.

Companion case 22A-UI-12259-DH-T finding claimant disqualified from benefits effective 04/12/2020 was kept in place and the appeal was dismissed as untimely.

Claimant filed a claim for unemployment benefits with an original claim date of 04/12/20. Their weekly benefit amount was \$518.00. Claimant filed for benefits and received a total of \$24,377.71 in benefits, to wit: \$8,179.71 in state regular unemployment benefits for 16 weeks between 04/12/20 and 08/01/20; \$5,698.00 in PEUC benefits for 11 weeks between 10/18/20 and 01/23/21; \$10,200.00 in FPUC benefits for 19 weeks between 04/12/20 and 01/23/21; and \$300.00 in LWAP benefits for the week ending 08/01/20. Claimant did not dispute this.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The first issue to be considered in this appeal is whether the appellant's appeal is timely. The administrative law judge determines it is not timely.

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) 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 of 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) If transmitted via the State Identification Data Exchange System (SIDES), maintained by the United States Department of Labor, on the date it was submitted to SIDES.

(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.

The Iowa Supreme Court has declared that there is a mandatory duty to file appeals from representatives' decisions within the time allotted by statute, and that the administrative law judge has no authority to change the decision of a representative if a timely appeal is not filed. *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979). Compliance with appeal notice provisions is jurisdictional unless the facts of a case show that the notice was invalid. *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373, 377 (Iowa 1979); see also *In re Appeal of Elliott* 319 N.W.2d 244, 247 (Iowa 1982).

Here, claimant received the decision in the mail on 05/05/22, before the deadline and, therefore, had an opportunity to file an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. Claimant's delay was not due to an error or misinformation from the Department or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. Claimant advised he put the appeal in the mail on 05/09/22, thinking that complied with the requirements. The standard is postmarked or received by date. The appeal is postmarked 05/10/22 and it was received on 05/11/22. There was no good cause reason established for the delay. Claimant's appeal date of 05/10/22 is not filed on time. Claimant failed to meet their burden of proof to establish their appeal was timely. Since the appeal is untimely, the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

This decision determines you have been overpaid benefits under the CARES Act. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal by following the instructions set forth at the end of this decision. Additionally, instructions for requesting a **waiver** of the CARES Act overpayments can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/federal-unemployment-insurance-overpayment>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.

DECISION:

The April 29, 2022, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was overpaid a total of \$24,377.71 in benefits (\$8,179.71 in state regular benefits, \$5,698.00 in PEUC benefits, \$10,200.00 in FPUC benefits, and \$300.00 in LWAP benefits) remains in effect as the appeal in this case was not timely filed, and the appeal is **DISMISSED**.

REMAND:

The undersigned is not aware of a waiver application, other than claimant tried to make his appeal a hybrid of appeal and waiver application and the undersigned does not know whether it was also filed as a waiver application and/or treated as a waiver application. Therefore, this matter is remanded to the benefits bureau for a determination as to whether there exists a pending waiver application that has not been ruled upon and if there is, then for a decision with appeal rights on said pending waiver application of claimant.



Darrin T. Hamilton
Administrative Law Judge

October 18, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

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APPEAL RIGHTS. If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
Online: eab.iowa.gov**

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.

AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL 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.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may then file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If no one files an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at Iowa Code §17A.19, which is online at <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> or by contacting the District Court Clerk of Court <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Note to Parties: YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or 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.

Note to Claimant: It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

SERVICE INFORMATION:

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN. Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Employment Appeal Board
4th Floor – Lucas Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319
Fax: (515)281-7191
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal.

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si nadie presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelaciones Laborales dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en acción final de la agencia y usted tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días después de que la decisión adquiera firmeza. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en el Código de Iowa §17A.19, que se encuentra en línea en <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/code/17A.19.pdf> o comunicándose con el Tribunal de Distrito Secretario del tribunal <https://www.iowacourts.gov/iowa-courts/court-directory/>.

Nota para las partes: USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

Nota para el reclamante: es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.