

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

JEFFREY D WHITTINGTON
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 11A-EUCU-00304-ST

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**ATWELL HEATING &
AIR CONDITIONING INC**
Employer

**OC: 03/15/09
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-3-a – Job Refusal
Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed a department decision dated October 27, 2009, reference 02, that held he was overpaid benefits \$4,212.00. A telephone hearing was scheduled for April 5, 2011. The claimant and employer did not participate. Official Notice was taken of claimant's appeal document.

ISSUE:

Whether the claimant filed a timely appeal.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The administrative law judge having considered the evidence in the record, finds: The department mailed the decision to claimant's address of record on October 27, 2009. The appeal deadline date is November 6. The claimant submitted an appeal to his local workforce center on March 22, 2011.

The claimant and employer failed to respond to the hearing notice.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 provides in pertinent part:

The representative shall promptly examine the claim and any protest, take the initiative to ascertain relevant information concerning the claim, and, on the basis of the facts found by the representative, shall determine whether or not the claim is valid, the week with respect to which benefits shall commence, the weekly benefit amount payable and its maximum duration, and whether any disqualification shall be imposed. . . . 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.

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 evidence of the date of mailing. Gaskins v. Unempl. Comp. Bd. of Rev., 429 A.2d 138 (Pa. Comm. 1981); Johnson v. Board of Adjustment, 239 N.W.2d 873, 92 A.L.R.3d 304 (Iowa 1976).

Pursuant to rules 871 IAC 26.2(96)(1) and 871 IAC 24.35(96)(1), appeals are considered filed when postmarked, if mailed. Messina v. IDJS, 341 N.W.2d 52 (Iowa 1983).

The record in this case shows that more than ten calendar days elapsed between the mailing date and the date this appeal was filed. 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). The question in this case thus becomes whether the appellant was deprived of a reasonable opportunity to assert an appeal in a timely fashion. Hendren v. IESC, 217 N.W.2d 255 (Iowa 1974); Smith v. IESC, 212 N.W.2d 471, 472 (Iowa 1973).

(1) The record shows that the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

The administrative law judge concludes the claimant failed to file a timely appeal.

The claimant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a more timely appeal by noting the deadline date and reading the appeal instructions. The claimant offered no good cause for the appeal delay.

DECISION:

The department decision dated October 27, 2009, reference 02, is affirmed. The claimant failed to file a timely appeal. The claimant is overpaid benefits \$4,212.00.

Randy L. Stephenson
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

rls/pjs