

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

LUIS M CABRERA
Claimant

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

APPEAL 23A-UI-09743-LJ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**OC: 11/13/22
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On October 9, 2023, Luis M. Cabrera (“Claimant”) filed an appeal from the May 23, 2023 (reference 12) unemployment insurance decision that found claimant was overpaid \$551.00 in regular unemployment insurance benefits for the week ending January 28, 2023 due to a previous denial decision for that week. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. A telephonic hearing was held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Appeal numbers 23A-UI-09736-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09737-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09738-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09739-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09740-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09741-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09742-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09743-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09744-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09745-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09746-LJ-T, 23A-UI-09747-LJ-T, and 23A-UI-09748-LJ-T were heard together and created one record. Claimant Luis M. Cabrera participated and agreed to hear all matters during the 8:00 a.m. hour. Spanish interpreter Margie (ID number 16229) from CTS Language Link provided interpretation for the hearing. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record, specifically including the unemployment insurance decisions issued to claimant, the claimant’s weekly claim filings and unemployment insurance benefit payments, and the IowaWorks records of claimant’s weekly reemployment activities.

ISSUE:

Is the appeal timely? Is there good cause to treat the appeal as timely?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds:

IWD sent claimant six decisions on April 24, 2023; each of these decisions denied claimant unemployment insurance (“UI”) benefits due to failing to log and certify at least four reemployment candidates for a specific week. IWD then sent claimant six decisions on May 23, 2023; each of these decisions stated claimant was overpaid \$551.00 for a specific week due to a prior denial decision. The reference 12 decision found claimant was overpaid \$551.00 for the week ending January 28, 2023.

The first sentence of the decision states, “If this decision denies benefits and is not reversed on appeal, it may result in an overpayment which you will be required to repay.” The decision

contained a warning that an appeal must be postmarked or received by the Appeals Bureau by June 2, 2023. The appeal was not filed until October 9, 2023, which is after the date noticed on the decision. Claimant did not receive the decision when it was initially sent because he moved to a new address and did not provide his new address to IWD. Claimant also did not have the U.S. Postal Service forward his mail to the new address, so all of his mail was arriving to his old address. Then, about “two weeks ago,” the woman who moved into the old address after him called him to tell him that he had “too much mail,” so he went and picked up his mail from her. He discovered the six disqualification decisions and six overpayment decisions that IWD sent him at that time. That led him to file an appeal on October 9, 2023.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes claimant failed to timely appeal the decision.

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:

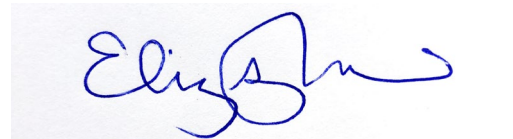
2. The submission of any payment, appeal, application, request, notice, objection, petition, report or other information or document not within the specified statutory or regulatory period shall be considered timely if it is established to the satisfaction of the division that the delay in submission 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, the claimant did not receive the decision in the mail and did not have an opportunity to file an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. However, the reason claimant did not receive the decision is that claimant failed to update his address with either IWD or with the U.S. Postal Service. Claimant had an ongoing claim in March 2023 when he moved, and he had an obligation to update IWD with accurate address information. Additionally, it is not reasonable for claimant to have no forwarding address set up with the U.S. Postal Service after moving and to expect the person who has moved into a residence he has vacated to pass his mail onto him. 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. No other good cause reason has been established for the delay. Claimant's appeal was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to decide the other issue in this matter.

DECISION:

The May 23, 2023, (reference 12) unemployment insurance decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect.



Elizabeth A. Johnson
Administrative Law Judge

November 1, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

lj/scn

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:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
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 adquiriera 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.