

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**HENRY J HILL JR**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 21A-UI-09159-AD-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 11/03/19  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

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Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Overpayment  
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Filing – Timely Appeal  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.35 – Filing

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

On April 1, 2021, Henry Hill Jr (claimant/appellant) filed an appeal from the November 16, 2020 (reference 16) unemployment insurance decision that determined he had been overpaid Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC). This determination was based on a decision dated July 18, 2020 (reference 14) which determined he was not eligible for PEUC.

A telephone hearing was held on June 16, 2021. The parties were properly notified of the hearing. Claimant participated personally. His roommate, Rita Bellamy, participated as a witness on his behalf. Official notice was taken of the administrative record.

**ISSUE(S):**

- I. Is the appeal timely?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

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

The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to claimant at the above address on November 16, 2020. That was claimant's correct address at that time. Claimant did receive the decision around that time. Claimant did not appeal because he did not closely read the decision and note the deadline to appeal and how to do so.

The decision clearly states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development Appeals Section by November 26, 2020. However, if the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. Claimant appealed the decision on April 1, 2021.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the claimant's appeal was untimely. The November 16, 2020 (reference 16) unemployment insurance decision that determined he had been overpaid Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) is therefore final and remains in force.

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)(a) 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 on 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)
  - (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.

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

The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to claimant at the above address on November 16, 2020. That was claimant's correct address at that time. Claimant did receive the decision around that time. Claimant did have a reasonable opportunity to file a timely appeal.

Claimant's delay in doing so was due to his failure to closely read the decision and note the deadline to appeal and how to do so. This is not a good cause reason for a delay of several months. The decision that was appealed is therefore final and remains in force.

**DECISION:**

The claimant's appeal was untimely. The November 16, 2020 (reference 16) unemployment insurance decision that determined he had been overpaid Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) is therefore final and remains in force.



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Andrew B. Duffelmeyer  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax (515) 478-3528

June 29, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

abd/mh

**Note to Claimant:**

This decision determines you have been overpaid FPUC, PEUC, and/or LWAP. If you disagree with this decision, you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision. Additionally, instructions for requesting a waiver of this overpayment can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/unemployment-insurance-overpayment-and-recovery>. If this decision becomes final and you are not eligible for a waiver, you will have to repay the benefits you received.

Individuals who are disqualified from or are otherwise ineligible for **regular** unemployment insurance benefits but who are unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19 may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility.** Additional information on how to apply for PUA can be found at <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.