

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

BRYAN K WEBER
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-03482-LT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

MSZ METALCOM INC
Employer

OC: 05/18/08
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Leaving
Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timeliness of Appeal

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant filed an appeal from the June 23, 2008, reference 02, decision that denied benefits. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on March 31, 2009. Claimant participated. Employer participated through Angela Foreman. Department's Exhibit D-1 was received.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether claimant's appeal is timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: A disqualification decision was mailed to claimant's last known address of record on June 23, 2008. He did not receive the decision because he had stopped claiming benefits the week ending June 14, 2008 and moved that same weekend to another residence. He filed a forwarding order with the postal service but not with Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). The post office did not forward the decision. Claimant found out about the decision when he filed an additional claim effective February 1, 2009 for the original claim year effective May 18, 2008. The appeal was dated March 3 and was filed with the Appeals Section on March 4, 2009.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow the administrative law judge concludes claimant's appeal is untimely.

Iowa Code § 96.6-2 provides:

2. Initial determination. A representative designated by the director shall promptly notify all interested parties to the claim of its filing, and the parties have ten days from the date of mailing the notice of the filing of the claim by ordinary mail to the last known address

to protest payment of benefits to the claimant. 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. The claimant has the burden of proving that the claimant meets the basic eligibility conditions of section 96.4. The employer has the burden of proving that the claimant is disqualified for benefits pursuant to section 96.5, except as provided by this subsection. The claimant has the initial burden to produce evidence showing that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 10, and has the burden of proving that a voluntary quit pursuant to section 96.5, subsection 1, was for good cause attributable to the employer and that the claimant is not disqualified for benefits in cases involving section 96.5, subsection 1, paragraphs "a" through "h". 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. If an administrative law judge affirms a decision of the representative, or the appeal board affirms a decision of the administrative law judge allowing benefits, the benefits shall be paid regardless of any appeal which is thereafter taken, but if the decision is finally reversed, no employer's account shall be charged with benefits so paid and this relief from charges shall apply to both contributory and reimbursable employers, notwithstanding section 96.8, subsection 5.

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). 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).

While claimant did not receive the separation or overpayment decisions because he had moved after he quit claiming benefits and before the decisions were mailed and the post office did not forward those documents, he testified he became aware of the decisions when he filed an additional claim effective February 1, 2009. The record in this case shows that more than ten calendar days elapsed between February 1, 2009 and March 3, 2009 when this appeal was filed.

The record shows that the appellant did have a reasonable opportunity to file an appeal within ten days of notice of the decision but did not do so and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the appeal. See, *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979) and *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979).

DECISION:

The June 23, 2008, reference 02, decision is affirmed. The appeal in this case was not timely, and the decision of the representative remains in effect.

Dévon M. Lewis
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

dml/pjs