

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

DONNA J WILLIAMS

Claimant

APPEAL 23A-UI-06914-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

WELLS FARGO BANK NA

Employer

OC: 04/16/23

Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Donna J. Williams, the claimant/appellant,¹ filed an appeal from the Iowa Workforce Development June 8, 2023 (reference 03) unemployment insurance (UI) decision. The decision denied Ms. Williams REGULAR (state) UI benefits because IWD concluded she voluntarily quit on April 18, 2023 and she did not give IWD evidence showing that she had good cause for quitting. On July 14, 2023, the Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals and Licensing (DIAL), UI Appeals Bureau mailed a notice of hearing to Ms. Williams and the employer for a telephone hearing scheduled for July 31, 2023.

The undersigned administrative law judge held a telephone hearing on July 31, 2023. Ms. Williams participated personally. The employer participated through Elsie Poucel, Equifax hearing representative, and Alaina Shaeffer, operations manager. The undersigned took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUES:

Did Ms. Williams file her appeal on time?

Did Ms. Williams voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the undersigned finds: IWD mailed the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision to Ms. Williams at her correct address. The UI decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by the IWD Appeals Section by Sunday, June 18, 2023. If the appeal deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. So, the appeal deadline was extended to Monday, June 19, 2023.

Ms. Williams received the decision in the mail. Ms. Williams put the decision away for recordkeeping because she had filed her UI claim based on another employer, Toyota Motor Credit Corp. (Toyota). Ms. Williams did not file an appeal at this time.

¹ Claimant is the person who filed the UI claim with IWD. Appellant is the person or employer who filed the appeal.

On July 5, 2023, IWD mailed another UI decision to Ms. Williams at her correct address. This decision, a reference 04 UI decision, concluded that IWD overpaid Ms. Williams REGULAR (state) UI benefits in the total gross amount of \$1,716.00 for 3 weeks between April 16, 2023 and May 6, 2023 because the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision denied her UI benefits based on her April 18, 2023 voluntarily quit from employer Wells Fargo Bank NA. The appeal deadline in this decision was Saturday, July 15, 2023. If the appeal deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. So, the appeal deadline was extended to Monday, July 17, 2023.

Ms. Williams received the decision in the mail on. Ms. Williams contacted IWD and told the representative that had not filed her UI claim with this employer but had done so with employer Toyota. The IWD representative told Ms. Williams that she could file an appeal. Ms. Williams filed an appeal online on July 12, 2023. The DIAL UI Appeals Bureau received the appeal the same day.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the undersigned concludes Ms. Williams did not file her appeal of the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision on time.

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:

2. 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:
 - (2) 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.² Compliance with appeal notice provisions is jurisdictional unless the facts of a case show that the notice was invalid.³

Ms. Williams received the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision before the appeal deadline and, therefore, could have filed an appeal by the deadline. The notice provision of the decision was valid. Ms. Williams' delay in filing her appeal was not due to an error or misinformation from IWD or due to delay or other action of the United States Postal Service. No other good cause reason has been established for the delay in filing the appeal. Ms. Williams did not file her appeal of the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision on time and the undersigned lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issue in this matter.

DECISION:

Ms. Williams did not file her appeal of the June 8, 2023 (reference 03) UI decision on time. The June 8 2023 (reference 03) UI decision denying Ms. Williams REGULAR (state) UI benefits based on how her job ended with this employer is AFFIRMED.



Daniel Zeno
Administrative Law Judge

August 1, 2023
Decision Dated and Mailed

scn

² *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979).

³ *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).

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 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.