

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

MARCI L GUTIERREZ
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-14968-DZ-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 05/03/20
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) – Timely Appeal
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.2(4)(d)(1) Claim – Cancellation, deadline, reasons

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Marci L Gutierrez, the claimant/appellant, filed an appeal from the July 9, 2020, (reference 01) decision that cancelled her unemployment insurance claim in Iowa because Illinois indicated that she had an existing claim with a balance in that state. After due notice was issued, a hearing was held by telephone conference call on August 26, 2021. Ms. Gutierrez participated and testified. The administrative law judge took official notice of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Is Ms. Gutierrez's appeal filed on time?
Did Ms. Gutierrez make a timely request to cancel her claim?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The Unemployment Insurance Decision was mailed to Ms. Gutierrez at the correct address on July 9, 2020. The decision states that it becomes final unless an appeal is postmarked or received by Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) Appeals Section by June 19, 2020. If the date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the appeal period is extended to the next working day. July 19, 2020 was a Sunday; therefore, the deadline was extended to Monday, July 20, 2020.

Ms. Gutierrez received the decision in the mail. She was confused because she had initially filed a claim in Illinois. After not hearing back from Illinois, Ms. Gutierrez filed a claim in Iowa. She then received benefits from Iowa and Illinois, at which point Ms. Gutierrez stopped claiming benefits in both states.

IWD issued two additional decisions, dated June 11, 2021 (reference 02), and June 11, 2021 (reference 03). Ms. Gutierrez received those decisions in the mail. Ms. Gutierrez filed an appeal on June 21, 2021. The appeal was received by Iowa Workforce Development on June 21, 2021.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

For the reasons that follow, the administrative law judge concludes the Ms. Gutierrez's appeal of the July 9, 2020 decision was not filed 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:

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).

Ms. Gutierrez received the decision in the mail before the deadline and, therefore, could have filed an appeal prior to the appeal deadline. The notice provision of the decision was valid. Ms. Gutierrez's delay in filing her appeal before the deadline 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 in filing her appeal before the deadline. Ms. Gutierrez's appeal was not filed on time and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction (authority) to decide the other issues in this matter.

DECISION:

Ms. Gutierrez's appeal was not filed on time. The July 9, 2020, (reference 01) decision is affirmed.



Daniel Zeno
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August 31, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

dz/ol