

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**ABEL ESQUIVEL**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-06368-AT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IAC IOWA CITY LLC**  
Employer

**Original Claim: 12/27/09  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Section 96.5-7 – Vacation Pay  
Section 96.6-2 – Timely Appeal

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from an unemployment insurance decision dated March 23, 2010, reference 02, that ruled the claimant was ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits for the three weeks ending January 23, 2010, upon a finding that the claimant had received vacation pay attributed to those weeks. After due notice was issued, a telephone hearing was held May 20, 2010, with the claimant participating. Assistant Human Resources Manager Teresa Feldman participated for the employer, IAC Iowa City, LLC. Exhibit D-1 and Employer Exhibit 1 were admitted into evidence.

**ISSUE:**

Has the claimant filed a timely appeal?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having heard the testimony of the witnesses and having examined all of the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The decision from which the claimant has appealed states that it would become final unless an appeal was postmarked by April 2, 2010, or received by the Agency by that date. The appeal was filed on April 19, 2010. The claimant had received the adverse decision in time to file a timely appeal.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The question is whether the administrative law judge has jurisdiction to rule on the merits of this case. He does not.

Iowa Code section 96.6-2 gives parties ten days from the date of a fact-finding decision to file an appeal. The Supreme Court of Iowa has ruled that the time limit in the statute is jurisdictional. See Franklin v. Iowa Department of Job Service, 277 N.W.2d 877, 881 (Iowa 1979). In the absence of a timely appeal, the administrative law judge has no authority to change an earlier decision, even if he disagrees with it.

The evidence in this record persuades the administrative law judge that the appeal in this case is not timely. The earlier decision has become final.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated March 23, 2010, reference 02, remains in effect. The claimant is ineligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits for the three weeks ending January 23, 2010.

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Dan Anderson  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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