

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**MITCHELL C WALKER**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 11A-UI-10105-S2T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**PETTY LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT  
MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTING CO**  
Employer

**OC: 06/26/11  
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

Section 96.6-2 – Timeliness of Protest

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Petty Livestock Equipment Manufacturing & Distributing Company (employer) appealed a representative's July 19, 2011 decision (reference 02) that allowed unemployment insurance benefits to Mitchell Walker (claimant) because it found the protest untimely. After hearing notices were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record, a telephone hearing was held on August 23, 2011. The claimant participated personally. The employer participated by Marilyn Petty, office manager. Exhibit D-1 was admitted in evidence.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the protest was filed in a timely manner and, if so, whether the claimant was separated from employment for any disqualifying reason.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

Having reviewed the evidence in the record, the administrative law judge finds: The claimant's notice of claim was mailed to the employer's address of record on June 29, 2011. The employer collects its mail almost every day, but the office manager only works once per week. The notice of claim was received by the employer prior to July 13, 2011. The office manager saw the notice of claim when she went to work on July 13, 2011. The notice of claim contains a warning that any protest must be postmarked, faxed, or returned not later than ten days from the initial mailing date. The employer did not file a protest until July 13, 2011, which is after the ten-day period had expired.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 96.6-2 provides in pertinent part:

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.

Another portion of this same Code section dealing with timeliness of an appeal from a representative's decision states that such an appeal must be filed within ten days after notification of that decision was mailed. In addressing an issue of timeliness of an appeal under that portion of this Code section, the Iowa Supreme Court held that this statute prescribing the time for notice of appeal clearly limits the time to do so, and that compliance with the appeal notice provision is mandatory and jurisdictional. Beardslee v. IDJS, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979).

The administrative law judge considers the reasoning and holding of that court in that decision to be controlling on this portion of that same Iowa Code section which deals with a time limit in which to file a protest after notification of the filing of the claim has been mailed. The employer has not shown any good cause for not complying with the jurisdictional time limit. Therefore, the administrative law judge is without jurisdiction to entertain any appeal regarding the separation from employment.

The administrative law judge concludes that employer has failed to protest within the time period prescribed by the Iowa Employment Security Law. *The delay was not due to any Agency error or misinformation or delay or other action of the United States Postal Service pursuant to 871 IAC 4.35(2)*. The administrative law judge further concludes that the employer has failed to timely protest pursuant to Iowa Code § 96.6(2), and the administrative law judge lacks jurisdiction to make a determination with respect to the nature of the claimant's termination of employment. See *Beardslee v. IDJS*, 276 N.W.2d 373 (Iowa 1979); *Franklin v. IDJS*, 277 N.W.2d 877 (Iowa 1979) and *Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company v. Employment Appeal Board*, 465 N.W.2d 674 (Iowa App. 1990).

**DECISION:**

The July 19, 2011, reference 02, decision is affirmed. Employer has failed to file a timely protest, and the decision of the representative shall stand and remain in full force and effect.

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Beth A. Scheetz  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

bas/kjw