

CHAPTER 7

APPEALS

IN GENERAL

This chapter provides information about state law provisions concerning appeals authorities and time limitations for review for first-level appeals, second-level appeals, and judicial review.

The Social Security Act (SSA) requires states to offer “opportunity for a fair hearing before an impartial tribunal, for all individuals whose claims for unemployment compensation are denied.” Hence, all states’ laws provide for a right to appeal. Further, all but a few states’ laws provide for a second-level appeal. In all states, individuals who are not satisfied with the outcome of the administrative appeal(s) may appeal their cases in the state court system, federal courts, and, as a last resort, the U.S. Supreme Court. In all states, employers who have an interest are granted the right to appeal decisions on claims as well.

As a result of *California Department of Human Resources Development v. Java*, 402 U.S. 121 (1971), once a UI claimant has been found eligible for benefits, such claimant will continue to receive benefits until a decision is issued reversing the determination allowing benefits. Thus, an employer’s appeal will not affect the continuance of payment of benefits until a subsequent decision is issued denying benefits. The majority of state laws specifically provide for the payment of benefits pending an appeal of a determination or decision allowing benefits, while other states have either interpreted their laws or have been required by court order to follow this procedure. In all states, this procedure applies to any determination or decision issued allowing benefits.

Most of the states specify that findings of fact, conclusions of law, or final orders made by a UI hearing officer or board of review will not be binding in any separate or subsequent proceeding brought in any court, judicial, administrative, or arbitration proceeding in that state or of the U.S. government. Some states’ laws provide that information obtained in connection with the UI law may not be used in certain civil lawsuits as well.

Table 7-1: STATES THAT DO NOT SPECIFY THAT FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, OR ORDERS OF HEARING OFFICERS ARE NOT BINDING IN ANY OTHER PROCEEDING

Alabama	Delaware	Hawaii	Kentucky	Maryland
Mississippi	Puerto Rico	Rhode Island	South Carolina	Virginia
Virgin Islands	West Virginia			

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FIRST- AND SECOND-LEVEL APPEALS

FIRST-LEVEL APPEALS—Typically, all states' laws provide that appeals at the initial stage will be conducted by one person called a referee, examiner, or administrative law judge.

The time period for appealing to the first-level appeals body is generally stated in terms of days. The number of days for filing an appeal after notice of the determination varies among the states, ranging from 7 to 30 days. Almost half of the states specify that a "day" is defined as a calendar day. Some of the states that do not define "day" extend the due date for filing appeals if the last day for filing or the date of mailing falls on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday, or any other day the state agency is closed. Many states extend the time for filing for good cause. For more specific information about states' law provisions, see Table 7-2.

In all but a few states, the decision of the first-level appeals body is final in the absence of further appeal. In other states, the official may reconsider his/her decision within the appeal period.

SECOND-LEVEL APPEALS—About half of the states that established second-level appeals have a board of review, board of appeals, or appeals board to hear cases appealed from the decision of the lower appeal tribunal. Almost all of these boards consist of three members. The members of the appeals boards generally represent labor, employers, and the public. The following is an overview of the exceptions concerning appeals board membership.

- AR – The chairman must be an attorney who is not a representative of employers or employees.
- CA – Two of the members must be attorneys.
- DE – Two members will reside in New Castle County, one of whom must live in the City of Wilmington; one member will reside in Kent County; one member will reside in Sussex County; and the final member will serve at large.
- IN – No more than two members may belong to the same political party. One member must practice law in the state.
- ME – The chairman of the commission must be an attorney.
- MA – The chairman must be an attorney.
- NH – When the board is in session, none of the three members can be from the same category of representation.
- NY – No more than three members may belong to the same political party.
- OH – No more than two members may belong to the same political party.
- OK – No member may serve as an officer of any political party organization during his term of office.
- OR – No more than two members may belong to the same political party.
- RI – No more than two members may belong to the same political party.
- WV – The governor may not appoint anyone who is identified with the interests of either employers or employees.
- WY – No more than two members may belong to the same political party.

In the rest of the states with second-level appeals, appeals are handled by an existing commission or agency head.

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TIME LIMITS FOR FILING APPEALS, AND APPELLATE ENTITIES—Many states extend the time for filing appeals for good cause; this provision can be found in policy rather than in law in some states. Some states provide that a contested determination involving a labor dispute shall be appealed directly to the second-level appeals body. In some states, a special examiner is designated to redetermine the original claim. State-specific information for filing appeals can be found in the following table:

TABLE 7-2: TIME LIMITATIONS FOR APPEALS, AND APPELLATE ENTITIES			
State	First-Level Appeals	Second-Level Appeals	
	Number Of Days For Filing	Number Of Days For Filing	Appellate Entity
AL	15 after mailing; 7 after delivery	15 after mailing	Board of Appeals
AK	30 after mailing or personal delivery	30 after mailing or personal delivery	Commissioner
AZ	15 [#] after mailing; 7 [#] after delivery	30 [#] after mailing or electronic transmission	Appeals Board
AR	20 [#] after mailing or delivery	20 [#] after mailing or delivery	Board of Review
CA	30 after mailing or personal service	30 after mailing or personal service	Appeals Board
CO	20 [#] after mailing or personal delivery	20 [#] after mailing or personal delivery	Industrial Claim Appeals Office (Panel)
CT	21 after mailing, or bears a legible U.S. Postal Service postmark indicating the appeal was placed in the possession of postal authorities within the 21-day period	30 [#] after mailing	Board of Review
DE	10 [#] after mailing	10 after decision is final	UI Appeal Board
DC	15 [#] after mailing or actual delivery ¹	NO SECOND-LEVEL APPEAL	
FL	20 [#] after mailing or delivery	20 [#] after mailing or delivery	Unemployment Appeals Commission
GA	15 after mailing or delivery	15 after mailing	Board of Review
HI	10 from mailing or delivery	NO SECOND-LEVEL APPEAL	
ID	14 after mailing or delivery	14 after actual notice	Industrial Commission
IL	30 after mailing or delivery	30 after mailing	Board of Review
IN	10 after mailing or delivery	30 after notification or mailing	Review Board
IA	10 after mailing	15 after notification or mailing	Employment Appeal Board
KS	16 [#] after mailing or delivery	16 after mailing	Board of Review
KY	15 after mailing	15 after mailing	UI Commission
LA	15 after mailing or being given to the party	15 after mailing or being given to the party	Board of Review
ME	15 [#] after mailing ^{1,2}	15 [#] after mailing ^{1,2}	UI Commission
MD	15 [#] after mailing or delivery	15 [#] after mailing or delivery	Board of Appeals
MA	30 after mailing or delivery	30 after mailing	Board of Review
MI	30 after mailing, by facsimile, or other electronic method	30 after mailing, by facsimile, or other electronic method	Board of Review
MN	20 [#] after mailing	NO SECOND-LEVEL APPEAL	
MS	14 after notification or delivery	14 after notification or delivery	Board of Review

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TABLE 7-2: TIME LIMITATIONS FOR APPEALS, AND APPELLATE ENTITIES

State	First-Level Appeals	Second-Level Appeals	
	Number Of Days For Filing	Number Of Days For Filing	Appellate Entity
MO	30 from delivery or mailing	30 from delivery or mailing	Industrial Commission
MT	10 after sending	10 after sending	Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board
NE	20 after delivery or mailing	NO SECOND-LEVEL APPEAL	
NV	11 after mailing or personal service	11 after mailing or personal service	Board of Review
NH	14 [#] after mailing	14 after mailing	Appellate Board
NJ	7 after delivery, 10 after mailing	20 after notification or mailing	Board of Review
NM	15 after notification or mailing	15 after notification or mailing	Board of Review
NY	30 after mailing or personal delivery	20 after mailing or personal delivery	Appeal Board
NC	15 after notification or mailing	10* after notification or mailing	Board of Review
ND	12 after mailing or service	12 after mailing or service	Bureau
OH	21 [#] after mailing or redetermination	21 [#] after mailing	Unemployment Compensation Review Commission
OK	10 after mailing or delivery	30 after mailing	Board of Review
OR	20 after mailing or delivery	20 after mailing or delivery	Employment Appeals Board
PA	15 [#] after mailing	15 after mailing	Board of Review
PR	15 after mailing or delivery	15 after mailing or delivery	Secretary of Labor
RI	15 [#]	15	Board of Review
SC	10 after mailing to last known address	10 [#] after mailing	Appellate Panel
SD	15 after mailing	15 after mailing or notification	Secretary
TN	15 [#] after mailing or delivery, whichever occurs first	15 [#] after mailing or delivery, whichever occurs first	Commissioner's designees
TX	14 after mailing	14 after mailing	Commission Appeals
UT	15 [#] after mailing	30 after notice	Appeals Board
VT	30 after mailing	30	Employment Security Board
VI	10 after mailing or delivery	NO SECOND-LEVEL APPEAL	
VA	30 [#] after mailing or delivery	30 after mailing or delivery	Commission Appeals
WA	30 after mailing or notification	30 after mailing or notification	Employment Security Commission
WV	8 [#] after mailing or delivery	8 [#] after mailing or delivery	Board of Review
WI	14 after mailing or being given to such party, whichever occurs first	21 after mailing	Labor and Industry Review Commission
WY	28 after mailing or delivery	28 after mailing or delivery	Employment Security Commission

Indicates "calendar" days * Indicates "working" days

¹ **DC** and **ME** - the 15-day appeal period may be extended if the claimant or any party to the proceeding shows excusable neglect or good cause.

² **ME** - an additional 15 days may be allowed if appellant shows good cause for late filing.

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JUDICIAL REVIEW

All states provide for appeals to the courts for judicial review. In general, the time limit for filing ranges from 10 to 30 days. States that designate a specific period of time to exhaust actions before the second administrative appeal body decision becomes final provide an additional period of time in which to seek judicial review, commencing with the date the decision is final.

TABLE 7-3: JUDICIAL REVIEW

State	Number of Days for Filing		Court of Initial Jurisdiction
	After Notification*	Other	
AL	10 + 30		Circuit Court in county in which claimant resides
AK		Within 30 days after date of entry of decision (prescribed by appellate rules)	Superior Court
AZ	30 [#] from date of decision		Court of Appeals
AR	30 [#] from date of decision		Court of Appeals
CA		Within 6 months of date of decision, or date it is designated a precedent, whichever is later	Superior Court; by court rule, no statutory provision
CO	15 + 20; claimant must appeal to commission for a review within 15 days before appeal to court		Court of Appeals
CT	31		Superior Court in Hartford or district where appellant resides
DE	10 + 10		Superior Court
DC		30 days after decision is final	D.C. Court of Appeals
FL		Within 30 days of date of entry of decision (prescribed by appellate rules)	District Court of Appeals in appellate district in which claimant resides or the job separation arose, or in the appellate district where the order was issued
GA	15 + 15		Superior Court in county or city in which the claimant last worked
HI		30 days after service of decision	Circuit Court in county in which claimant resides or in county or city in which claimant last worked
ID	30		Supreme Court
IL	35		Circuit Court in county in which claimant resides or county where business is located; non-resident may file suit in Circuit Court of Cook County
IN	15; or 30 days from date of notice of intention to appeal filed within the 15-day period		Indiana Court of Appeals
IA	10 + 20		District Court in county in which claimant resides; non-resident may file suit in District Court of Polk County or where claimant last worked

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TABLE 7-3: JUDICIAL REVIEW			
State	Number of Days for Filing		Court of Initial Jurisdiction
	After Notification*	Other	
KS	16		District Court in county where claimant resides; non-resident may file suit in Shawnee County District Court or in county in which business is located
KY		20 days after date of decision	Circuit Court in county or city in which claimant last worked
LA	15		District Court in the parish in which claimant resides
ME	10 + 15		Superior Court in county in which plaintiff lives or does business
MD	30		Circuit Court of county of Baltimore
MA	30		District Court in county in which claimant resides or in county or city in which claimant last worked
MI	30		Circuit Court in county in which claimant resides or last worked, or county in which business is located
MN	30		Court of Appeals
MS	10 + 10		Circuit Court of the county where party resides, the county in which the action arose, or in the county of employment
MO	10 + 20		Appellate Court; appeals on interstate claims will be in Court of Appeals for the Western District
MT	30		District Court in county in which claimant resides
NE	5 + 30; no further administrative appeal		District Court in county in which claimant resides or last worked
NV	10 + 10		District Court where employment was performed
NH	30		Supreme Court
NJ	45; by court rule, no statutory provision		Superior Court, Appellate Division
NM		15; after notification or mailing of decision	District Court in county in which claimant resides
NY	30		Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department
NC	30		Superior Court in county in which claimant resides
ND	30		District Court
OH	30		Court of Common Pleas in county in which claimant resides or last worked, or in county in which business is located
OK	30		District Court in county in which claimant resides; non-resident may file suit in District Court of Oklahoma County
OR		30; after decision is served	Circuit Court
PA	15 + 30		Commonwealth Court
PR	30		Superior Court in county in which claimant resides
RI	30		District Court - Sixth Division, State of Rhode Island
SC	30		Administrative Law Court
SD		30 days after date of decision	Circuit Court

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TABLE 7-3: JUDICIAL REVIEW			
State	Number of Days for Filing		Court of Initial Jurisdiction
	After Notification[*]	Other	
TN		30 days after decision of commissioner has become final	Chancery Court in county in which claimant resides. Non-resident may file suit in Chancery Court of the county in which employer is located
TX	14 + 14		County Court in county in which claimant resides; non-resident may file suit in Travis County Court
UT	10 + 10	30 days after date of decision	Utah Court of Appeals
VT	2	30 days after notice of appeal is filed	Supreme Court
VA	30		Circuit Court where claimant last worked
VI	30		District Court of the Virgin Islands
WA	30		Superior Court; appeals on intrastate claims filed in petitioner's choice of Thurston County or county of residence or business; appeals on interstate claims in Thurston County
WV	30 (appeals involving a labor dispute must be filed within 20 days) + 20		Circuit Court of Kanawha County
WI	30		Court where plaintiff resides, except if the plaintiff is a state agency, the proceedings must be in the state where the defendant resides; if the plaintiff is a non-resident of Wisconsin, the proceedings must be in the county where the claim arose; cases can be brought in any other county circuit court if the parties and the court agree
WY	10		District Court of Natrona County, or in county in which claimant resides, or in county in which business is located
<p># Indicates "calendar" days</p> <p>[*] Where two figures are shown, the first figure is the number of days after which the decision is final and is the time claimant has to exhaust actions before administrative appeal bodies; the second figure is additional time allowed to seek judicial review. Notification may include postal or electronic mailing, in-person delivery, or other methods of notice.</p>			