



APPEAL TRIBUNAL DECISION

Docket number: 25 0856 **Hearing date:** December 17, 2025

CLAIMANT:

JEREMIAH WILD
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CLAIMANT APPEARANCES:

Jeremiah Wild

DETS APPEARANCES:

None

CASE HISTORY

The claimant timely appealed a December 2, 2025, determination which denied benefits under AS 23.20.375. The issue before the Appeal Tribunal is whether the claimant met the filing requirements.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The claimant established a claim for unemployment insurance benefits effective October 12, 2025. During the online application process, the claimant was advised that he was required to file weekly certifications to claim benefits. On October 20, 2025, the claimant filed a certification to claim benefits for the week ending October 18, 2025. The claimant did not receive benefits right away, so he did not file further certifications, reasoning that he would continue to be denied benefits.

The claimant tried to contact the Division by phone to find out why his benefits were denied, but he was unable to reach a representative. The claim center phones were very busy, and the claimant called a few times each week and waited on hold. At one point, the claimant left his phone number and requested that a representative call him back. The claimant did not recall receiving a call back. Eventually, the claimant got through to a representative by phone on November 24, 2024. The claimant's benefit claim was re-opened effective November 23, 2025. The claimant requested to file certifications for weeks ending October 25, 2025, through November 22, 2025. Certifications were

taken and entered in the computer system and benefits were denied on a holding that the certifications were filed later than seven days after the allowed filing period.

When the claimant first established his claim, an Unemployment Claimant Handbook was mailed to his address of record. The claimant did not recall receiving the Handbook. The claimant shares his mailbox with other family members and he felt this may have resulted in his mail being misplaced. The Tribunal takes official notice of the Handbook's advisory regarding filing certifications:

FILING BIWEEKLY CLAIMS

When you open a new claim or reopen an existing claim, you will be given dates for when to file your weekly claim. You must file every week or two to keep your claim active and to receive benefits. Weeks that are filed late may be disqualified.

The first eligible week of a new claim is a "waiting week." You do not receive payment for this week.

You must file to get credit for the week and meet the same requirements as any other week.

PROVISIONS OF LAW

AS 23.20.375. Filing requirements

(a) An insured worker is entitled to receive waiting-week credit or benefits for a week of unemployment for which the insured worker has not been disqualified under AS 23.20.360, 23.20.362, 23.20.378 - 23.20.387, or 23.20.505 if, in accordance with regulations adopted by the department, the insured worker has

- (1) made an initial claim for benefits; and
- (2) for that week, certified for waiting-week credit or made a claim for benefits.

8 AAC 85.102 Intrastate filing: continued claims

(a) An intrastate claimant located in this state is eligible for waiting week credit or benefits for a week if the claimant

- (1) files a continued claim for the week as required in this section; and

- (2) meets all requirements of AS 23.20 and this chapter.
- (b) A claimant shall file a continued claim with an unemployment insurance claim center of the division by
 - (1) an electronic means designated by the director;
 - (2) telephone; or
 - (3) mail, with the prior approval of the director.
- (c) A continued claim for a week is filed when an unemployment insurance claim center of the division receives a certification for a continued claim.
- (d) The filing date of a continued claim filed by mail is the postmark date of the mailing of the completed claim form.
- (e) The date of filing of a continued claim filed by telephone is the date that the claimant accesses the telephone filing system and provides claim information for the week using the claimant's personal identification number.
- (f) For each week claimed, the claimant shall answer specific eligibility questions and shall certify to the truthfulness and completeness of the answers.
- (g) A continued claim for a week may not be filed before the end of the week claimed. A continued claim may not be filed later than seven calendar days after the end of the week claimed, except that
 - (1) if the director authorizes the filing of bi-weekly claims, the claim may not be filed later than seven days after the end of the bi-weekly period authorized by the director;
 - (2) a claim for benefits for a week of partial unemployment may not be filed later than seven days after the claimant receives wages for that week.
- (h) The director shall extend the time allowed in (g) of this section for filing a continued claim if the claimant has good cause for filing a late claim and the claimant files the claim as soon as possible under the circumstances.
- (i) For the purposes of (h) of this section, "good cause" means circumstances beyond a claimant's control that the division determines leave the claimant with no reasonable choice but to delay filing the claim; "good cause" includes illness or disability of the claimant, processing delays within the division, or failure of the division to provide sufficient or correct information to the claimant in order to file a continued claim.

CONCLUSION

Alaska Statute holds that a claimant must file a certification for a week in order to be eligible for benefits. Regulation 8 AAC 85.102 holds that a certification must be filed within seven days of the end of the week or two-week period being claimed. The regulation holds that additional time is allowed for filing when the claimant has good cause to delay filing. The claimant in this case was not prevented from filing, he decided to stop filing certifications after the first week, which would have been the claimant's waiting week if he had

met other eligibility requirements. The Division provided the claimant with proper filing instructions on the online application and in the Handbook mailed to the claimant's address of record.

In Matchett, Com. Dec. 992621, January 10, 2000, the Commissioner held in part:

The unemployment insurance system also requires the filing of continuing claims on a bi-weekly basis wherein claimants certify to among other things, their availability for work and any earnings they may have had. If the continued claims are not filed on a timely basis, memories fade and there is a danger they will not be filed accurately. Allowing claims to be backdated for substantial periods, works against that goal. The statute requiring timely filing of claims is not frivolous.

The Tribunal concludes the claimant did not have good cause to file late certifications for weeks ending October 25, 2025, through November 8, 2025. Weeks ending November 15, 2025, and November 22, 2025 were not late when the claimant requested to file them on November 24, 2025. Benefits for those weeks are allowed, however the weeks remain denied under issues reviewed in docket numbers 25 0854 and 25 0855.


DECISION

The determination issued on December 2, 2025 is **MODIFIED**. Benefits remain **DENIED** for the weeks ending October 25, 2025 through November 8, 2025, Benefits are **ALLOWED** under as 23.20.375 and 8 AAC 85.102 for weeks ending November 15, 2025 and November 22, 2025.

APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision is final unless an appeal is filed in writing to the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development **within 30 days** after the decision is mailed to each party. The appeal period may be extended only if the appeal is delayed for circumstances beyond the party's control. A statement of rights and procedures is enclosed.

Dated and mailed on December 18, 2025.


Rhonda Bunes, Appeals Officer