

**United States Department of Labor
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board**

S.K., Appellant

and

**U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, PHILADELPHIA
PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER,
Philadelphia, PA, Employer**

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**Docket No. 22-0356
Issued: February 28, 2022**

Appearances:
*Russell T. Uliase, Esq., for the appellant*¹
Office of Solicitor, for the Director

Case Submitted on the Record

ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
PATRICIA H. FITZGERALD, Alternate Judge
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

On January 11, 2022 appellant, through counsel, filed an appeal from a July 13, 2021 merit decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Clerk of the Appellate Boards assigned Docket No. 22-0356.

The Board has duly considered the matter and notes that the Board has jurisdiction to review final adverse decisions of OWCP issued under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act.² For final adverse decisions of OWCP issued on or after November 19, 2008, the Board's review authority is limited to appeals which are filed within 180 days from the date of issuance of OWCP's decision.³

¹ In all cases in which a representative has been authorized in a matter before the Board, no claim for a fee for legal or other service performed on appeal before the Board is valid unless approved by the Board. 20 C.F.R. § 501.9(e). No contract for a stipulated fee or on a contingent fee basis will be approved by the Board. *Id.* An attorney or representative's collection of a fee without the Board's approval may constitute a misdemeanor, subject to fine or imprisonment for up to one year or both. *Id.*; *see also* 18 U.S.C. § 292. Demands for payment of fees to a representative, prior to approval by the Board, may be reported to appropriate authorities for investigation.

² 5 U.S.C. § 8149; 20 C.F.R. §§ 501.2(c) and 501.3(a) (2009).

³ *Id.* at § 501.3(e).

The 180th day following the July 13, 2021 decision was January 9, 2022. As this fell on a Sunday, appellant had until the next business day, Monday, January 10, 2022, to file the appeal.⁴ As appellant's appeal was not filed until January 11, 2022, more than 180 days after the July 13, 2021 OWCP decision, the Board finds that the appeal docketed as No. 22-0356 is untimely filed. The Board is without jurisdiction to review the appeal. Appellant has not offered a reason to explain the failure to timely file an appeal with supporting documentation sufficient to establish compelling circumstances. Because there is no final adverse decision issued by OWCP within 180 days of the filing of the instant appeal, the Board concludes that the appeal docketed as No. 22-0356, must be dismissed.⁵ Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the appeal docketed as No. 22-0356 is dismissed.

⁴ 20 C.F.R. § 501.3(f).

⁵ The Board's decisions and orders are "final upon the expiration of 30 days from the date of their issuance." 20 C.F.R. § 501.6(d).

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Washington, DC



Alec J. Koromilas, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board



Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Valerie D. Evans-Harrell, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board