

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

_____)	
T.J., Appellant)	
)	
and)	Docket No. 22-0251
)	Issued: July 28, 2022
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, ATLANTA)	
PROCESSING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER,)	
Atlanta, GA, Employer)	
_____)	

Appearances:
Alan J. Shapiro, Esq., for the appellant¹
Office of Solicitor, for the Director

Case Submitted on the Record

ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
JANICE B. ASKIN, Judge
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

On December 3, 2021 appellant, through counsel, filed an appeal from an April 19, 2021² merit decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Clerk of the Appellate Boards assigned Docket 22-0251.

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.³ For final adverse decisions of OWCP issued on or after November 19, 2008, the Board's review

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 an 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 The Board notes that counsel indicated that he was appealing from an April 21, 2021 decision. As there is no decision of record dated April 21, 2021, this appears to be a typographical error.

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

authority is limited to appeals which are filed within 180 days from the date of issuance of OWCP's decision.⁴

The 180th day following the April 19, 2021 decision was October 16, 2021. As appellant did not file an appeal with the Board until December 3, 2021, more than 180 days after the April 19, 2021 decision, the Board finds that the appeal docketed as Docket No. 22-0251 is untimely filed. The Board is without jurisdiction to review the appeal. Appellant has not explained her 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. 22-0251, must be dismissed.⁵ Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the appeal docketed as No. 22-0251 is dismissed.

Issued: July 28, 2022
Washington, DC

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

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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

⁴ *Id.* at § 501.3(e).

⁵ The Board's decisions and orders are "final upon the expiration of 30 days from the date of their issuance." *Id.* at § 501.6(d).