

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

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M.L., Appellant )  
and ) Docket No. 26-0035  
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, CATHEDRAL CITY ) Issued: January 14, 2026  
POST OFFICE, Cathedral City, CA, Employer )  
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)

*Appearances:*

*Appellant, pro se*

*Office of Solicitor, for the Director*

*Case Submitted on the Record*

**ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL**

Before:

PATRICIA H. FITZGERALD, Deputy Chief Judge  
JANICE B. ASKIN, Judge  
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

On October 14, 2025 appellant filed an appeal from a February 12, 2025 merit decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Clerk of the Appellate Boards docketed the appeal as No. 26-0035.

The Board, having duly considered this matter, notes that the Board has jurisdiction to review final adverse decisions of OWCP issued under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA).<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

The 180<sup>th</sup> day following the February 12, 2025 decision was August 11, 2025. As appellant did not file an appeal with the Board until October 14, 2025, more than 180 days after the February 12, 2025 OWCP decision, the Board finds that the appeal docketed as No. 26-0035

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<sup>1</sup> 5 U.S.C. § 8101 *et seq.*; 20 C.F.R. §§ 501.2(c) and 501.3(a).

<sup>2</sup> 20 C.F.R. § 501.3(e) provides in pertinent part: "Any notice of appeal must be filed within 180 days from the date of issuance of a decision of the OWCP."

is untimely filed.<sup>3</sup> The Board is without jurisdiction to review the appeal. Appellant has not explained 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. 26-0035, must be dismissed.<sup>4</sup> Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the appeal docketed as No. 26-0035 is dismissed.

Issued: January 14, 2026  
Washington, DC

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Janice B. Askin, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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

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<sup>3</sup> 20 C.F.R. § 501.3(f) indicates that a notice of appeal is considered to have been filed only if received by the Clerk of the Appellate Boards.

<sup>4</sup> 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).