

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**RANDY J STITT**  
Claimant

**WELLS ENTERPRISES INC**  
Employer

**APPEAL 16A-UI-12655-H2T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 10/30/16**  
**Claimant: Respondent (6)**

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Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

An appeal was filed from an unemployment insurance decision dated November 18, 2016, (reference 01) that allowed benefits. Notice of hearing was mailed to the party's last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 9:00 a.m. on December 29, 2016. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system shows the employer/appellant failed to respond to the hearing notice and provide a telephone number at which a representative could be reached for the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

Should the appeal be dismissed based upon the employer/appellant not participating in the hearing?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The party was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The employer/appellant failed to provide a telephone number at which it could be reached for the hearing. The representative's decision concluded that the claimant/respondent was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The Iowa Administrative Procedure Act at Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) provides that if a party fails to appear or participate in a hearing after proper service of notice, the judge may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party. The statute further states that if a party makes a timely request to vacate the decision and shows good cause for failing to appear, the judge shall vacate the decision and conduct another hearing.

Agency rule Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provides that if the appealing party has not responded to a notice of telephone hearing by providing the Appeals Bureau with the names and telephone numbers of the persons who are participating in the hearing by the scheduled

starting time of the hearing or is not available at the telephone number provided, the judge may decide the appealing party is in default and dismiss the appeal as provided in Iowa Code § 17A.12(3). The record may be reopened if the absent party makes a request to reopen the hearing and shows good cause for reopening the hearing. The rule further states that failure to read or follow the instructions on the notice of hearing is not good cause for reopening the record. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7)c.

The employer/appellant appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The employer/appellant has therefore defaulted on its appeal pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7), and the decision remains in force and effect. Benefits are allowed, provided the claimant is otherwise eligible.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated November 18, 2016, (reference 01) is affirmed. The decision allowing benefits remains in effect.

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Teresa K. Hillary  
Administrative Law Judge  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs