

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**MOHAMED N ABDELAZIZ**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 21A-UI-02531-JTT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**REMEDY INTELLIGENT STAFFING INC**  
Employer

**OC: 04/12/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able & Available  
Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant, Mohamed Abdelaziz, filed a late appeal from the October 30, 2020, reference 01, decision that denied benefits effective April 12, 2020, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work. A telephone hearing was set for 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 2021 and the parties were appropriately notified. The employer registered a telephone number for the hearing and was available through Vicky Matthias and J.T. Breslin. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system indicates that the claimant/appellant, Mr. Abdelaziz, failed to respond to the hearing notice instructions to register a telephone number at which he could be reached for the hearing. Based upon the claimant/appellant's failure to participate in the hearing and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision.

**ISSUE:**

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The claimant is the appellant in this matter. The claimant was properly notified of the appeal hearing set for 9:00 a.m. on March 8, 2021. On February 12, 2021, the Appeals Bureau mailed a hearing notice to the claimant's Iowa City last-known address of record. On February 23, 2021, the United States Postal Service returned the correspondence due to an insufficient mailing address. The claimant had not provided Iowa Workforce Development with his apartment number when he established his claim for benefits. However, the claimant had included the apartment number in his December 21, 2020 online appeal. The Appeals Bureau omitted the apartment number in the February 12, 2021 mailing. The Appeals Bureau received the returned correspondence on February 24, 2021. On that same day, the Appeals Bureau emailed the hearing notice to the claimant's email address of record. The Appeals Bureau support staff included in her message a specific reminder to the claimant that he needed to

register a telephone number for the appeal hearing. The claimant did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. The claimant did not comply with the hearing notice instructions to register a telephone number at which he could be reached for the hearing. The claimant did not provide a telephone number in his online appeal. The claimant has not otherwise provided the Appeals Bureau with a telephone number since filing the appeal.

The October 30, 2020, reference 01, decision denied benefits effective April 12, 2020, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work. The claimant's appeal is on its face untimely. The decision included a November 9, 2020 appeal deadline. The claimant's online appeal was received on December 21, 2020.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The Iowa Administrative Procedures Act at Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) provides in pertinent part:

If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no adjournment is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party. ... If a decision is rendered against a party who failed to appear for the hearing and the presiding officer is timely requested by that party to vacate the decision for good cause, the time for initiating a further appeal is stayed pending a determination by the presiding officer to grant or deny the request. If adequate reasons are provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall vacate the decision and, after proper service of notice, conduct another evidentiary hearing. If adequate reasons are not provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall deny the motion to vacate.

Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-26.14(7) provides:

(7) If a 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 presiding officer may proceed with the hearing. If the appealing party fails to provide a telephone number or is unavailable for the hearing, the presiding officer may decide the appealing party is in default and dismiss the appeal as provide in Iowa Code section 17A.12(3). The record may be reopened if the absent party makes a request to reopen the hearing in writing under subrule 26.8(3) and shows good cause for reopening the hearing.

a. If an absent party responds to the hearing notice while the hearing is in progress, the presiding officer shall pause to admit the party, summarize the hearing to that point, administer the oath, and resume the hearing.

b. If a party responds to the notice of hearing after the record has been closed and any party which has participated is no longer on the telephone line, the presiding officer shall not take the evidence of the late party.

c. Failure to read or follow the instructions on the notice of hearing shall not constitute good cause for reopening the record.

The claimant/appellant appealed the representative's decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The claimant/appellant has therefore defaulted on his appeal pursuant to Iowa Code §17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.14(7), and the representative's decision remains in force and effect.

**DECISION:**

The claimant defaulted on his appeal. The appeal is dismissed. The October 30, 2020, reference 01, decision that denied benefits effective April 12, 2020, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant requested and was granted a leave of absence, was voluntarily unemployed, and was not available for work, remains in effect.



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James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax 515-478-3528

March 11, 2021

Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/scn

**NOTE TO CLAIMANT:**

- This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.
- If you do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law and are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19, you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** For more information on how to apply for PUA, go to <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>.