

**BEFORE THE
EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
Lucas State Office Building
Fourth floor
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

ARMANDO G MATA

Claimant

and

ABSOLUTE OUTDOOR SVCS INC

Employer

HEARING NUMBER: 19BUI-05155

**EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
DECISION**

SECTION: 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

D E C I S I O N

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The issue of timeliness was raised when the Claimant filed an appeal faxed on December 31, 2018, several months beyond the statutory deadline of June 10, 2018. The reason for the delay was because the Claimant never received the Notice of Decision. For this reason, we find good cause has been established for the late appeal, and the board shall consider it to be timely.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The notice of hearing in this matter was mailed May 8, 2018. The notice set a hearing for May 22, 2018. The Claimant did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the Claimant did not appear is because the Claimant did not receive the Notice of Hearing. The Claimant did not know the hearing was taking place.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2015) provides:

4. Appeal board review. The appeal board may on its own motion affirm, modify, or set aside any decision of a administrative law judge on the basis of the evidence previously submitted in such case, or direct the taking of additional evidence, or may permit any of the parties to such decision to initiate further appeals before it. The appeal board shall permit such further appeal by any of the parties interested in a decision of an administrative law judge and by the representative whose decision has been overruled or modified by the administrative law judge. The appeal board shall review the case pursuant to rules adopted by the appeal board. The appeal board shall promptly notify the interested parties of its findings and decision.

Here the Claimant did not participate in the hearing through no fault of the Claimant. The Claimant did not participate because he did not receive the Notice of Hearing and did not know that a hearing was taking place. For this reason, the matter will be remanded for another hearing before an administrative law judge.

The Board shall continue sending correspondence relating to this appeal to the Claimant's authorized representative. We caution the Claimant's authorized representative that, barring exceptional circumstances, we will not again excuse a failure to participate in the hearing for this matter. In the event, the Claimant no longer has legal representation, it is incumbent upon the Claimant to maintain communication with the agency by providing a valid mailing address.

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated May 24, 2018 is not vacated and remains in force unless and until the Department makes a differing determination pursuant to this remand. This matter is remanded to an administrative law judge in the Workforce Development Center, Appeals Section. The administrative law judge shall conduct a hearing following due notice. After the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue a decision which provides the parties appeal rights.

Kim D. Schmett

James M. Strohman

AMG/fnv