

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

**CHRISTABEL GARCIA**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 09A-UI-18292-JT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**TYSON FRESH MEATS INC**  
Employer

**Original Claim: 06/14/09  
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code section 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit  
871 IAC 26.8(5) – Decision on the Record

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Cristabel Garcia appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated July 28, 2009, reference 01, that denied benefits based on an Agency conclusion that she had voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. At Ms. Garcia's request, an in-person hearing was scheduled for February 23, 2010 in Des Moines. Ms. Garcia did not appear for the hearing or otherwise respond to the hearing notice. The employer also did not appear for the hearing or otherwise respond to the hearing notice. Spanish-English interpreter Patricia Ver Ploeg was available to assist with the hearing. Based on the appellant's failure to participate in the hearing, the administrative file, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law, and decision.

**ISSUE:**

Decision on the record.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal by notice mailed on January 29, 2010. The appellant, Cristabel Garcia, failed to appear for the in-person hearing she had requested and failed to otherwise respond to the hearing notice. Ms. Garcia did not contact the Appeals Section to request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. There is no evidence that the hearing notice was returned by the postal service as undeliverable for any reason.

The administrative law judge has conducted a careful review of the administrative file to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed. The claimant's appeal is on its face more than four months late.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

871 IAC 26.8(3), (4) and (5) provide:

Withdrawals and postponements.

(3) If, due to emergency or other good cause, a party, having received due notice, is unable to attend a hearing or request postponement within the prescribed time, the presiding officer may, if no decision has been issued, reopen the record and, with notice to all parties, schedule another hearing. If a decision has been issued, the decision may be vacated upon the presiding officer's own motion or at the request of a party within 15 days after the mailing date of the decision and in the absence of an appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals. If a decision is vacated, notice shall be given to all parties of a new hearing to be held and decided by another presiding officer. Once a decision has become final as provided by statute, the presiding officer has no jurisdiction to reopen the record or vacate the decision.

(4) A request to reopen a record or vacate a decision may be heard ex parte by the presiding officer. The granting or denial of such a request may be used as a grounds for appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals upon the issuance of the presiding officer's final decision in the case.

(5) If good cause for postponement or reopening has not been shown, the presiding officer shall make a decision based upon whatever evidence is properly in the record.

The administrative law judge has carefully reviewed evidence in the record and concludes that the unemployment insurance decision previously entered in this case is correct and should be affirmed. Because the appeal is on its face more than four months late, the administrative law judge would not have jurisdiction or authority to disturb the prior decision that denied benefits absent evidence to establish good cause to treat the late appeal as a timely appeal.

Pursuant to the rule, the appellant must make a written request to the administrative law judge that the hearing be reopened within 15 days after the mailing date of this decision. The written request should be mailed to the administrative law judge at the address listed at the beginning of this decision and must explain the emergency or other good cause that prevented the appellant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time.

**DECISION:**

The Agency representative's July 28, 2009, reference 01, decision is affirmed. The decision denying benefits remains in effect. This decision will become final unless a written request establishing good cause to reopen the record is made to the administrative law judge within 15 days of the date of this decision.

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James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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