

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

MICA POPHAM

Claimant

TYSON PET PRODUCTS INC

Employer

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-06081-ET

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 05/11/14

Claimant: Respondent (6)

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 employer/appellant filed a timely appeal from a representative's decision dated June 3, 2014, reference 01, that allowed benefits to the claimant. Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held on July 8, 2014, before Administrative Law Judge Julie Elder. The employer/appellant provided a phone number prior to the hearing but was not available at that number at the time of the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. Based on the employer/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:

The issue is whether the underlying decision should be affirmed and the appeal should be effectively dismissed based upon the employer/appellant's failure to participate in the hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The employer/appellant was not available at the telephone number provided for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing.

The representative's decision concluded that the claimant 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.

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 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 scheduled appeal hearing. The employer/appellant has therefore defaulted on its 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.

If the employer/appellant disagrees with this decision, the employer/appellant may appeal the decision to the Employment Appeal Board, whose address is listed at the beginning of the decision.

DECISION:

The representative's unemployment insurance decision dated June 3, 2014, reference 01, is affirmed. The decision allowing benefits to the claimant remains in effect.

Julie Elder
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

je/pjs