

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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**CHRISTINA M BROOKS**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-02023-N**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**MAHARISHI UNIVERSITY OF  
MANAGEMENT**  
Employer

**OC: 01/26/14**  
**Claimant: Appellant (6)**

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Iowa Code Section 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 a representative's unemployment insurance decision dated February 12, 2014, reference 01, that concluded the claimant/appellant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits after a separation from Maharishi University of Management. Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for an in-person hearing to be held in Ottumwa, Iowa, at 1:00 p.m. on July 23, 2014. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system indicates that the claimant/appellant failed to respond to the hearing notice of hearing and did not appear at the in-person hearing that she had requested. The claimant did not request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

**ISSUE:**

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The claimant/appellant failed to appear at the in-person hearing that she had requested in this matter.

The representative's decision had concluded that the claimant/appellant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

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

If the claimant/appellant disagrees with this decision, a written request to reopen the record must be made to the administrative law judge 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 end of this decision and must explain the emergency or other good cause that prevented the claimant/appellant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time. Alternatively, the appellant also has the option to appeal the decision directly to the Employment Appeal Board, whose address is listed on the cover page of this decision.

**DECISION:**

The unemployment insurance decision dated February 12, 2014, reference 01, is affirmed. The decision denying benefits remains in effect.

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Terence P. Nice  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

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