

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

JULIE L HARPER

Claimant

and

THOMAS L CARDELLA & ASSOCIATES INC

Employer

HEARING NUMBER: 20BUI-02094

**EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
DECISION**

SECTION: 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

D E C I S I O N

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The notice of hearing in this matter was initially mailed March 10, 2020. The notice set a hearing for March 25, 2020. An additional notice was mailed in an effort to reschedule the hearing due to the heavy backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Claimant subsequently received a letter from Workforce indicating the hearing on the second notice was postponed, and to await another notice, which never came. On the day of the hearing, the Claimant did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the Claimant did not appear is because she understood the hearing was postponed, and she hadn't yet called in her number.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2019) provides:

4. Appeal board review. The appeal board may on its own motion affirm, modify, or set aside any decision of an 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 due to confusion in the process. She did not provide her number because she was waiting for the new hearing notice that never came. For this reason, this matter shall be remanded for another hearing before an administrative law judge so that the Claimant may avail herself of her due process right.

We caution the Claimant that, barring exceptional circumstances, we will not again excuse a failure to call in a number where the Claimant could be reached.

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated April 23, 2020 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.

Ashley R. Koopmans

James M. Strohman

Myron R. Linn

AMG/fnv