

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

JESSICA L MYERS
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-08632-DH-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 02/20/22
Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.6(2) - Timeliness of Appeal
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) - Payment - Overpayment
Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) - Default Decision
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) - Dismissal of Appeal on Default

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

April 6, 2022, claimant/appellant, Jessica Myers, filed an appeal from the March 29, 2022, (reference 02) unemployment insurance decision concluded claimant was overpaid unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$284.00 for one week between March 6-12, 2022, due to the decision that disqualified them for misconduct (reference 01). The parties were properly notified about the hearing. A telephone hearing was held on May 17, 2022. The department did not participate. The Appeals Bureau's conference call system indicates that the claimant failed to call into the hearing at the time of the hearing and did not participate. Because the appellant failed to follow the instructions on the notice of hearing, no hearing was held. Judicial notice was taken of the administrative record.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed based on the appellant's failure to appear and participate?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The hearing notice instruction specifically advises parties of the date and time of hearing. It also states:

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

YOU MUST CALL the toll-free number: **866-783-7021** at the time of the hearing. When instructed, enter the PIN Number **108632** followed by the pound key [#] and wait for the administrative law judge to begin the hearing.

The administrative law judge **WILL NOT** call you for the hearing, you **MUST** call into the number provided above to participate. **Failure to participate in the hearing may result in the dismissal of your appeal.**

The back page of the hearing notice provides further hearing instructions stating, "You must call the toll-free number on the front of this notice at the time of the hearing to participate." This information also appears on the hearing notice in Spanish.

As a courtesy to the appellant, the record was left open for a minimum of 15 minutes after the hearing start time to give the appellant a reasonable opportunity to participate. Holding the appellant in default for failure to appear and participate during a 15-minute window after the hearing start time is reasonable considering the time allocated for unemployment hearings.

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.

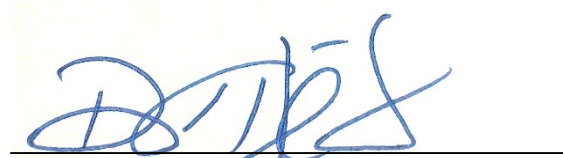
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provides:

(7) If a 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 presiding officer may proceed with the hearing. If the appealing party fails to provide a telephone number or is unavailable for the hearing, the presiding officer 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 in writing under subrule 26.8(3) and shows good cause for reopening the hearing.

Appellant did not call the toll-free number listed on the hearing notice at the time of the hearing. The appellant is in default. The appeal should be dismissed. If appellant disagrees with this decision, appellant may appeal the decision directly to the Employment Appeal Board, whose address is listed at the top right caption.

DECISION:

The March 29, 2022, (reference 02) decision finding claimant was overpaid \$284.00 in benefits remains in effect as appellant is in default and the appeal is **DISMISSED**.



Darrin T. Hamilton
Administrative Law Judge

June 29, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

dh/scn