

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

LASHAWN BAKER

Claimant

APPEAL NO. 07A-UI-02186-JTT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

EXPRESS SERVICES INC

Employer

**OC: 01/14/07 R: 03
Claimant: Respondent (1)**

871 IAC 26.8(5) - Decision on the Record

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Express Services appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated February 23, 2007, reference 03, that allowed benefits. A telephone hearing was scheduled for March 20, 2007. The employer/appellant provided a telephone number for the hearing, but a representative was not available at that number at the scheduled time of the hearing. Claimant Lashawn Baker was available for 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.

Franchise owner Connie Cooper contacted the Appeals Section at 12:22 p.m. on March 20, 2007, in response to a message the administrative law judge left on her cell phone at the time of the 11:00 a.m. hearing. After appropriately questioning Ms. Cooper regarding the employer's absence from the hearing, the administrative law judge concluded that good cause did not exist to reopen the record.

ISSUE:

Decision on the record.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The appellant, Express Services, responded to the hearing notice instructions and provided a telephone number at which a representative could be reached for the hearing: Bruce Johnson at 319-363-3345. However, at the scheduled time of the hearing, neither Mr. Johnson nor a surrogate representative was available to represent the employer at the hearing. The appellant did not request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The administrative law judge has conducted a careful review of the administrative file to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed.

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.

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 February 23, 2007, reference 03, decision is affirmed. The decision allowing 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.

James E. Timberland
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/css