

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**ELIZABETH REYES**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-00234-JTT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OSCEOLA FOOD LLC**  
Employer

**OC: 12/01/13**  
**Claimant: Appellant (1)**

Iowa Code Section 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit  
871 IAC 26.8(5) – Decision on the Record

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Elizabeth Reyes appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated December 17, 2013, reference 01, that disqualified her for benefits and that relieved the employer of liability for benefits based on an August 31, 2013 separation. A telephone hearing was scheduled for January 30, 2014. Ms. Reyes did not respond to the hearing notice instructions and did not participate in the hearing. The employer was available for the hearing through Aaron Peterson. 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. The administrative law judge took official notice of the agency's administrative record (APLT and Clear2There Hearing Control Screen) that document the claimant's failure to provide a telephone number for the hearing.

**ISSUE:**

Whether Ms. Reyes separated from the employment for a reason that disqualifies her for unemployment insurance benefits.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal by notice mailed on January 13, 2014. The appellant, Elizabeth Reyes, failed to provide a telephone number at which she could be reached for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. There is no evidence the hearing notice was returned by the postal service as undeliverable for any reason.

The administrative law judge has conducted a careful review of the administrative file to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed. Ms. Reyes' appeal is on its face late. The appeal deadline was December 27, 2013. The appeal is dated January 8, 2014, and date-stamped as received by the Appeals Section the same day.

**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. Absent testimony or other evidence presented by Ms. Reyes to establish good cause to treat her late appeal as a timely appeal, the administrative law judge would not have jurisdiction to disturb the lower decision that disqualified Ms. Reyes for benefits.

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 December 17, 2013, reference 01, decision is affirmed. The decision that disqualified the claimant for benefits and that relieved the employer of liability for benefits based on an August 31, 2013 separation 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.

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James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

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