

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

SPEARS, ANTHONY, D
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 13A-UI-01470-JTT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

CRST VAN EXPEDITED INC
Employer

OC: 12/16/12
Claimant: Appellant (1)

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

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Anthony Spears appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated January 16, 2013, reference 01, that disqualified Mr. Spears for unemployment insurance benefits based on an agency conclusion that Mr. Spears had voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer. A telephone hearing was scheduled for March 7, 2013. Mr. Spears did not respond to the hearing notice instructions and did not participate in the hearing. The employer was available for the hearing through Sandy Matt, Human Resources Specialist. 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.

ISSUE:

Decision on the record.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal by notice mailed on February 13, 2013. The appellant, Anthony Spears, failed to provide a telephone number at which he 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. Mr. Spears appeal is on its face late. The deadline for appeal was January 26, 2013. Because that was a Saturday, the deadline for appeal would be extended by operation of law to the next working day, which would have been Monday, January 28, 2013. The appeal was mailed in an envelope that bears a February 5, 2013 postmark.

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. Because the appeal is on its face late, the administrative law judge would have no jurisdiction or authority to disturb the lower decision absent testimony from Mr. Spears to establish good cause, if any, to deem the late appeal as a timely appeal.

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 January 16, 2013, reference 01, decision is affirmed. The decision that disqualified the claimant for unemployment insurance benefits based on an agency conclusion that the claimant had voluntarily quit without good cause attributable to the employer

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

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