

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

ELIZABETH A NEUHALFEN
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 10A-UI-08656-HT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

KELLY SERVICES INC
Employer

OC: 03/21/10
Claimant: Appellant (1)

Section 96.4(3) – Able and Available
871 IAC 26.8(5) – Decision on the Record

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

An appeal was filed from an unemployment insurance decision dated June 15, 2010, reference 04, that concluded the claimant was not eligible for benefits. A telephone hearing was scheduled for August 4, 2010. The appellant did not participate in the hearing. Based on the appellant's failure to participate in the hearing, the available administrative file, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision.

ISSUE:

The issue is whether the claimant is able and available for work.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The appellant failed to call the Appeals Section 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 available administrative file to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed.

The record was closed at 11:13 a.m. At 11:17 a.m., the appellant called and requested to participate. The appellant received the hearing notice prior to the August 4, 2010 hearing. The instructions inform the parties that if the party does not contact the Appeals Section and provide the phone number at which the party can be contacted for the hearing, the party will not be called for the hearing. The first time the appellant directly contacted the Appeals Section was on August 4, 2010, after the scheduled start time for the hearing. The appellant had not read all the information on the hearing notice, and had assumed that the Appeals Section would initiate the telephone contact even without a response to the hearing notice.

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.

The next issue is whether the record should be reopened. The judge concludes it should not.

Ref 94 (delete last two sentences)

The first time the appellant called the Appeals Section for the August 4, 2010 hearing was after the hearing had been closed. Although the appellant may have intended to participate in the hearing, the appellant failed to read or follow the hearing notice instructions and did not contact the Appeals Section as directed prior to the hearing. The rule specifically states that failure to read or follow the instructions on the hearing notice does not constitute good cause to reopen the hearing. The appellant did not establish good cause to reopen the hearing. Therefore, the appellant's request to reopen the hearing is denied.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated June 15, 2010, reference 04, is affirmed. The decision disqualifying the claimant from receiving benefits remains in effect.

Bonny G. Hendricksmeier
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

bgh/css