

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

MICHELLE L RAY
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-05590-SWT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 12/29/13
Claimant: Appellant (6)

Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

An appeal was filed by the claimant, Michelle Ray, from an unemployment insurance decision dated May 20, 2014, reference 02, that concluded she was overpaid \$6,360.00. A notice of hearing were mailed to Ms. Ray's last-known address of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 2:30 p.m. on June 24, 2014. She did not participate in the hearing.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed because Michelle Ray did not participate in the hearing?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Michelle Ray was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system shows she failed to respond to the hearing notice and provide a telephone number at which she could be reached for the hearing. She did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The Iowa Administrative Procedures 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. The statute further states that if a party makes a timely request to vacate the decision and shows good cause for failing to appear, the judge shall vacate the decision and conduct another hearing.

The Agency rules at Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provide that if the appealing 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 judge may decide the appealing party is in default and dismiss the appeal as provided in

Iowa Code § 17A.12(3). The record may be reopened if the absent party makes a request to reopen the hearing and shows good cause for reopening the hearing. The rules further state that failure to read or follow the instructions on the notice of hearing is not good cause for reopening the record. Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7)c.

In this case, Michelle Ray appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the hearing. She has therefore defaulted on her appeal pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.14(7), and the decision remains in force and effect.

If Ms. Ray disagrees with this decision, a request must be made 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 end of this decision and must explain the emergency or other good cause that prevented the claimant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time.

NOTICE: In her appeal, Ms. Ray refers to not being notified about the hearing that led to her disqualification or the decision issued after the hearing. I have no jurisdiction to address this issue. Instead, she would need to appeal the disqualification decision that was issued on May 7, 2014 to the Employment Appeal Board and explain why she did not appeal it within 15 days of that decision being issued.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated May 20, 2014, reference 02, is affirmed. The decision that concluded Michelle Ray was overpaid \$6,360.00 in benefits remains in effect.

Steven A. Wise
Administrative Law Judge
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Iowa Workforce Development
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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
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Decision Dated and Mailed

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