

**BEFORE THE  
EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD  
Lucas State Office Building  
Fourth floor  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319**

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**GERALD A RIPPENKROEGER**

Claimant,

and

**WEST LIBERTY FOODS LLC**

Employer.

**HEARING NUMBER: 14B-UI-08528**

**EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD  
DECISION**

**SECTION:** 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

**D E C I S I O N**

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The notice of hearing in this matter was mailed August 22, 2014. The notice set a hearing for September 5, 2014. The Claimant did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the Claimant did not appear is because the Claimant did not provide a telephone number at which the Claimant could be reached. Thus, the Claimant did not receive the call. When the Claimant realized no call was forthcoming, the Claimant contacted the administrative law judge approximately 35 minutes after the scheduled start of the hearing.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2014) provides:

4. Appeal board review. The appeal board may on its own motion affirm, modify, or set aside any decision of a administrative law judge on the basis of the evidence previously submitted in such case, or direct the taking of additional evidence, or may permit any of the parties to such decision to initiate further appeals before it. The appeal board shall permit such further appeal by any of the parties interested in a decision of an administrative law judge and by the representative whose decision has been overruled or modified by the administrative law judge. The appeal board shall review the case pursuant to rules adopted by the appeal board. The appeal board shall promptly notify the interested parties of its findings and decision.

Here the Claimant did not participate in the hearing because the Claimant had not provided a telephone number for the administrative law judge to call. When the Claimant did not receive a call, the Claimant contacted the administrative law judge within a reasonable timeframe after the scheduled hearing time, which established the Claimant's intention to follow through with the appeals process. For this reason, the matter will be remanded for another hearing before an administrative law judge so that the Claimant may participate in the hearing.

We caution the Claimant that, barring exceptional circumstances, we will not again excuse a failure to call in a number where the Claimant could be reached.

**DECISION:**

The decision of the administrative law judge dated September 5, 2014 is not vacated. This matter is remanded to an administrative law judge in the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau. The administrative law judge shall conduct a hearing following due notice. After the hearing, the administrative law judge shall issue a decision which provides the parties appeal rights.

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Kim D. Schmett

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Ashley R. Koopmans

RRA/fnv