

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

ANTHONY J HOLAN
Claimant

APPEAL NO: 15A-UI-03439-JCT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

REMEDY INTELLIGENT STAFFING INC
Employer

**OC: 02/22/15
Claimant: Respondent (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 from an unemployment insurance decision dated March 13, 2015, (reference 03) that allowed benefits based upon the claimant's separation. Notice of the hearing was mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 8:00 a.m. on April 14, 2015. The employer/appellant provided a phone number and contact for the hearing but failed to be available for the scheduled hearing, and no hearing was held. Prior to closing the hearing record, a voicemail was left for the employer witness, advising her to contact the Appeals Bureau within fifteen minutes if she intended to participate. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system after 8:17 a.m. the same day shows the employer did not call back to participate.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed based upon the appellant not being available to participate in the scheduled hearing?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The party was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The appellant, Remedy Intelligent Staffing Inc., failed to be available during the scheduled hearing time at a telephone number at which it could be reached, nor did it request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The agency's decision concluded that the claimant was eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The Iowa Administrative Procedure 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.

Agency rule Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provides 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 rule further states 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. (Emphasis added.)

The appellant, Remedy Intelligent Staffing Inc., appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to be available to participate in the scheduled hearing. The appellant has therefore defaulted on its 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 the appellant disagrees with this decision, a request to reopen the record must be made to the administrative law judge within 15 days after the mailing date of this decision. The 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 appellant from participating in the hearing at the scheduled time.

DECISION:

The appellant is in default and the appeal is dismissed. The unemployment insurance decision dated March 13, 2015, (reference 03) allowing benefits remains in effect.

Jennifer L. Coe
Administrative Law Judge
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Iowa Workforce Development
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Decision Dated and Mailed

jlc/pjs