

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

**RANDY D DEATON**  
Claimant

**WHIRLPOOL CORPORATION**  
Employer

**APPEAL 21A-UI-16726-JC-T**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE**  
**DECISION**

**OC: 04/04/21**  
**Claimant: Respondent (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.5(2)a – Discharge for Misconduct  
Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.10 – Employer/Representative Participation Fact-finding Interview  
PL116-136, Sec. 2104 – Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)  
Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quitting  
Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

Employer filed an appeal from the July 20, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision that allowed benefits. Iowa Workforce Development mailed a notice of hearing to employer's last address of record. The hearing was scheduled for September 21, 2021, at 10:00.

The employer/appellant registered two witnesses and two phone numbers with the Appeals Bureau as directed on the hearing notice, but neither witness was available when called for the hearing. A total of four attempts were made between the two contacts. No voicemail could be left at either number. A grace period was extended to allow the employer/appellant to contact the Appeals Bureau when it did not receive the anticipated call, before the record was closed. No hearing was held.

**ISSUE:**

Should the appeal be dismissed based on employer's failure to appear and participate?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The claimant and employer were properly notified of the scheduled hearing for this appeal. The employer did not answer at the telephone number on the appeal letter or provide a different telephone number prior to the hearing. Employer did not request a postponement of the hearing.

The hearing notice instruction specifically advises parties of the date and time of the hearing. It also states:

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER TO THE APPEALS BUREAU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. If you do not follow these instructions, the judge will not call you for the hearing. You must also provide the name(s) and phone number(s) of any witnesses to the Appeals Bureau.

The back page of the hearing notice provides further instruction and warning:

**Failure to Participate or Register for Appeal Hearing**

If you do not participate in the hearing, the judge may dismiss the appeal or issue a decision without considering your evidence. The Appeals Bureau does not have a phone number for this hearing unless you provide it to us by following the instructions on the other side of this page. If you do not follow those instructions, the judge will not call you for the hearing. 871 IAC 26.14(7).

The information quoted above also appears on the hearing notice in Spanish.

The administrative law judge held the record open for 15 minutes past the scheduled start time to allow the employer a reasonable opportunity to participate. However, employer did not contact the Appeals Bureau to participate during that time frame.

The unemployment insurance decision appealed by employer 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) states that if a party fails to appear for or participate in a hearing after being properly notified, the judge may enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provides, in relevant part:

(7) If a 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 presiding officer may proceed with the hearing. If the appealing party fails to provide a telephone number or is unavailable for the hearing, the presiding officer may decide the appealing party is in default and dismiss the appeal as provide in Iowa Code section 17A.12(3).

In this case, the employer was not available for the hearing at the telephone number it provided to the Appeals Bureau. Therefore, the employer is in default and the appeal is dismissed.

If the employer disagrees with this decision, the employer may appeal the decision directly to the Employment Appeal Board, whose address is listed at the top right caption.

**DECISION:**

The July 20, 2021, (reference 03) unemployment insurance decision allowing benefits remains in effect as the appellant is in default.



---

Jennifer L. Beckman  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax 515-478-3528

September 23, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/mn