

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

CHRISTINA M STANLEY
Claimant

AFM LLC
MIAN GROUP OF COMPANIES
Employer

APPEAL 14A-UI-05996-H2T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 07/14/13
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 May 19, 2014 (reference 05), that allowed benefits. (While this case allowed benefits, for the sake of clarity the administrative law judge notes that the claimant has not collected or applied for any benefits as her claim is locked on another matter.) Notice of hearing was mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 1:00 p.m. on July 21, 2014. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system shows the employer/appellant was not available at the telephone number provided for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed based upon the employer/appellant not participating in the hearing?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The party was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The employer/appellant was not available at the telephone number provided for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The representative's decision concluded that the claimant/respondent 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.

The employer/appellant appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The employer/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 employer/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 employer/appellant from participating in the hearing at the scheduled time.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated May 19, 2014 (reference 05), is affirmed. The decision allowing benefits remains in effect. While benefits have been allowed in this case, the claimant's claim for benefits remains locked on another issue.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge
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Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
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Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/pjs