

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

TASHA L ALEXANDER	:	
	:	
Claimant,	:	HEARING NUMBER: 07B-UI-09666
	:	
and	:	
	:	EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
	:	DECISION
TYSON PREPARED FOODS INC	:	
	:	
Employer.	:	

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 October 18, 2007. The notice set a hearing for October 30, 2007. The claimant did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the claimant did not appear is because she had a medical appointment for her three-year old son at the University of Iowa on the day of the hearing. She inadvertently overlooked that the hearing was taking place.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2005) provides:

5. 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 through no fault of the claimant. The claimant was unable to participate due to a medical appointment involving her toddler at a major medical center. It is not wholly unreasonable that such an appointment would overshadow her ability to follow through with the appeals process. For this reason, we conclude that the claimant provided good cause for her

nonparticipation and would remand this matter for another hearing before an administrative law judge.

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated November 2, 2007 is not vacated. This matter is remanded to an administrative law judge in the Workforce Development Center, Appeals Section. 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.

Elizabeth L. Seiser

Mary Ann Spicer

AMG/fnv

DISSENTING OPINION OF JOHN A. PENO:

I respectfully dissent from the majority decision of the Employment Appeal Board; I would not remand this matter based on what I consider to be a lack of good cause to do so.

John A. Peno

AMG/fnv