

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

68-0157 (9-06) - 3091078 - EI

SAHARRA L LAWRENCE
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-09123-DWT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 07/20/14
Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision
871 IAC 26.14(7) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant appealed a representative's August 29, 2014 determination (reference 02) that held her ineligible to receive benefits as of August 10, 2014, because she failed to report as directed by a Department representative. A notice of hearing was mailed to the claimant's last-known address of record informing her that a telephone hearing would be held on September 24 at 9 a.m. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system shows the claimant/appellant failed to respond to the hearing notice and provide a telephone number at which she could be reached for the hearing. The claimant did not participate in the hearing.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed when the appellant does not participate in the hearing?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The claimant was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The claimant failed to provide a telephone number at which she could be reached for the hearing. The claimant did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The representative's August 29, 2014 determination held the claimant ineligible to receive benefits as of August 10, 2014, because she failed to report as directed by a Department representative.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The Iowa Administrative Procedures 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.

The Agency rules at 871 IAC 26.14(7) provide 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 rules further state that failure to read or follow the instructions on the notice of hearing is not good cause for reopening the record. 871 IAC 26.14(7)c.

The claimant/appellant appealed the representative's August 29, 2014 determination but failed to participate in the hearing. The claimant defaulted on her appeal. Based on Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and 871 IAC 24.14(7), the representative's August 29, 2014 determination remains in full force and effect.

If the claimant/appellant disagrees with this decision, a request must be made to the administrative law judge that the hearing be reopened within 15 days after the mailing date of this decision. The written 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 claimant/appellant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time.

DECISION:

The representative's August 29, 2014 determination (reference 02) is affirmed. The claimant is not eligible to receive benefits as of August 10, 2014.

Debra L. Wise
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax 515-242-5144

Decision Dated and Mailed

dlw/css