

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

MELISSA A PLUMMER	:	
	:	HEARING NUMBER: 21B-UI-13336
Claimant	:	
	:	
and	:	EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
	:	DECISION
RYDER INTEGRATED LOGISTICS INC	:	
	:	
Employer	:	
	:	

SECTION: 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

DECISION

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The notice of hearing in this matter was mailed November 18, 2020. The notice set a hearing for December 7, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. The Claimant did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the Claimant did not appear is because the Claimant did not provide a telephone number at which she could be reached, and she did not receive a call to participate. The Claimant attempted to retrieve her notice to obtain the agency’s number to call, but was discouraged by the Employer who told her the hearing was probably cancelled since the Employer had already completed the paperwork.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2019) provides:

4. Appeal board review. The appeal board may on its own motion affirm, modify, or set aside any decision of an 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 because she had not provided a telephone number for the administrative law judge to call. When the Claimant did not receive a call, she attempted in good faith to make an effort to contact the administrative law judge, but her effort was thwarted when the Employer told her the hearing was likely cancelled. The Claimant reasonably believed there was no hearing. Based on this circumstance, we find good cause has been established for her nonparticipation. For this reason, the matter will be remanded for another hearing before an administrative law judge so that the Claimant may avail herself of due process right.

We caution the Claimant that, barring exceptional circumstances, we will not again excuse a failure to call in a number where the Claimant could be reached.

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated January 4, 2021 is not vacated and remains in force unless and until the Department makes a differing determination pursuant to this remand. 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.

James M. Strohman

Ashley R. Koopmans

Myron R. Linn

AMG/fnv