

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

RONNIE E BELDING
Claimant

APPEAL 22A-UI-06428-JC-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

OC: 01/05/20
Claimant: Appellant (6)

Iowa Code § 96.3(7) – Recovery of Benefit Overpayment
Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) – Default Decision
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(6) – Dismissal of Appeal on Default

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The claimant/appellant, Ronnie E. Belding, filed an appeal from the March 3, 2022, (reference 02) Iowa Workforce Development (“IWD”) unemployment insurance decision that established an overpayment of regular benefits. On April 6, 2022, a notice of hearing was mailed to the claimant/appellant’s last known address of record for a hearing to be held in Des Moines, Iowa, at 8:35 a.m. on May 3, 2022. The claimant/appellant failed to appear in response to the hearing notice instruction and no hearing was held. A grace period was extended to the claimant/appellant before the record was closed.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed based on the appellant’s failure to appear and participate?

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The appellant was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The claimant/appellant requested the in-person hearing, but failed to respond to the hearing notice instruction to appear for the scheduled hearing at 8:35 a.m. on May 3, 2022, and did not request a postponement of the hearing. The unemployment insurance decision established an overpayment of unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$884.00 when claimant failed to accurately report wages earned while filing weekly continued claims.

The hearing notice instruction specifically advised the appellant of the date and time of the hearing. It also stated in pertinent part:

IMPORTANT!

When you arrive at the hearing location, do not wait in line. You should immediately ask workforce center staff where to go for the hearing. On the scheduled date, you must be present at the location identified above and ready to participate in the hearing at the scheduled time.

As a courtesy to the appellant the record was left open for a minimum of thirty minutes after the hearing start time to give the appellant a reasonable opportunity to participate.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

The Iowa Administrative Procedure Act at Iowa Code section 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.

Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(6) provides:

(6) If one or more parties which received notice for a contested case hearing fail to appear at the time and place of an in-person hearing, the presiding officer may proceed with the hearing. If the appealing party fails to appear, the presiding officer may decide the party is in default and dismiss the appeal. The hearing may be reopened if the absent party makes a request in writing to reopen the hearing under subrule 26.8(3) and shows good cause for reopening the hearing.

a. If an absent party arrives for an in-person hearing while the hearing is in session, the presiding officer shall pause to admit the party, summarize the hearing to that point, administer the oath, and resume the hearing.

b. If an absent party arrives for an in-person hearing after the record has been closed and after any party which had participated in the hearing has departed, the presiding officer shall not take the evidence of the late party.

In this case, the record was held open thirty minutes past the scheduled start time to allow the appellant an opportunity to participate. The appellant was granted additional time not required by statute or rule. However, the appellant did not contact the Appeals Bureau or appear for the hearing during the additional time allotted. Therefore, the appellant is in default, the appeal is dismissed, and the representative's decision remains in force and effect.

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

DECISION:

The claimant/appellant is in default and the appeal is dismissed. The unemployment insurance decision dated March 3, 2022 (reference 02) establishing an overpayment of regular unemployment insurance benefits in the amount of \$884.00 remains in effect. This overpayment is subject to recovery.



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

May 16, 2022
Decision Dated and Mailed

jlb/kmj