

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

FELICIA L BRYANT
Claimant

S-L SNACKS IA LLC
Employer

APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-05056-NT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

OC: 04/13/14
Claimant: Appellant (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 a representative's unemployment insurance decision dated May 2, 2014, reference 01, that concluded claimant/appellant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits after a separation from employment from S-L Snacks IA, LLC. Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 10:00 a.m. on June 4, 2014. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system indicates that the claimant/appellant failed to respond to the hearing notice and provide a telephone number at which she or a representative could be reached for the hearing.

ISSUE:

Should the appeal be dismissed based upon the claimant/appellant not participating in the hearing by providing a telephone number before and not within 15 minutes after the scheduled hearing.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The claimant/appellant failed to provide a telephone number at which the appellant could be reached for the hearing. As a courtesy to the claimant/appellant the hearing record was held open for more than 15 minutes after the scheduled time for this hearing, however, the claimant did not provide a telephone number at which she could be reached.

The representative's decision had concluded that the claimant/appellant was not 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 claimant/appellant filed a late appeal from the representative's decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The claimant/appellant has therefore defaulted on her appeal pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.14(7), and the representative's decision remains in force and effect.

If the claimant/appellant disagrees with this decision, a written request to reopen the record must be made to the administrative law judge 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 unemployment insurance decision dated May 2, 2014, reference 01, is affirmed. The decision denying benefits remains in effect.

Terence P. Nice
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

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