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

MELISSA S JACK	HEARING NUMBER: 11B-UI-10836
Claimant,	EARING NUMBER: 11D-01-10850
and	EMPLOYMENT APPEAL BOARD
FIVE STAR QUALITY CARE INC	DECISION

Employer.

SECTION: 10A.601 Employment Appeal Board Review

DECISION

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The notice of hearing in this matter was mailed August 19, 2011. The notice set a hearing for September 8, 2011. The employer's representative submitted the employer's contact information and received control #11. On the day of the hearing, the employer did not appear for or participate in the hearing. The reason the employer did not appear is because the employer did not receive a call from the administrative law judge and did not know the hearing was taking place.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Iowa Code section 10A.601(4) (2011) provides:

4. 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 employer did not participate in the hearing through no fault of the employer. The employer complied with the notice instructions by providing contact information prior to the hearing. However, due to unknown circumstances, the employer did not receive a call to participate. Having established good cause for the employer's nonparticipation, the Board shall remand this matter for another hearing before an administrative law judge.

DECISION:

The decision of the administrative law judge dated September 8, 2011 is not vacated. This matter is remanded to an administrative law judge in the Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau. 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.

Monique F. Kuester

Elizabeth L. Seiser

DISSENTING OPINION OF JOHN A. PENO:

I respectfully dissent from the majority decision of the Employment Appeal Board; I would deny the employer's remand request for a new hearing, and AFFIRM the administrative law judge's decision in its entirety. This is one of three cases involving the same employer with identical issues. I can understand how the employer's failure to call in after not receiving the administrative law judge's call for the first hearing (Kyle Davis) would be excusable and worthy of a remand. But, with regard to the second and third cases, it would seem that the employer's representative would have known that if no-call was received from the administrative law judge, then the employer should have called in within a reasonable time after the scheduled time of the hearing. The employer's failure to do so does not establish good cause to hold a new hearing.

John A. Peno

AMGkk