

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

SCOTT A WESTHOLM
Claimant

APPEAL NO. 06A-UI-10476-JTT

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 07/09/06 R: 03
Claimant: Appellant (1)**

871 IAC 26.8(5) - Decision on the Record

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

Scott Westerholm appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated October 19, 2006, reference 03, that denied benefits effective September 10, 2006. A telephone hearing was scheduled for November 9, 2006. The appellant provided a telephone number for the hearing, but was not available at that number at the scheduled time of the hearing. Based on the appellant's failure to participate in the hearing, the administrative file, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision.

ISSUE:

Decision on the record.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Iowa Workforce Development properly notified claimant Scott Westerholm of the scheduled hearing on his appeal. Mr. Westerholm responded to the hearing notice instructions and provided a telephone number at which he could be reached for the hearing: 319-841-2249. However, at the scheduled time of the hearing, the appellant was not available at the telephone number he provided. The administrative law judge made two attempts to contact Mr. Westerholm for the hearing. On each attempt, the administrative law judge encountered an answering machine that identified the number as belong to "Scott." On each attempt, the administrative law judge left an appropriate message, including the Appeals Section's toll-free number. Prior to the hearing, Mr. Westerholm advised the Appeals Section clerical staff that he did not intend to appear for the hearing and requested that the administrative law judge enter a decision based on information in the administrative file. The appellant did not request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The administrative law judge has conducted a careful review of the administrative file to determine whether the unemployment insurance decision should be affirmed.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

871 IAC 26.8(3), (4) and (5) provide:

Withdrawals and postponements.

(3) If, due to emergency or other good cause, a party, having received due notice, is unable to attend a hearing or request postponement within the prescribed time, the presiding officer may, if no decision has been issued, reopen the record and, with notice to all parties, schedule another hearing. If a decision has been issued, the decision may be vacated upon the presiding officer's own motion or at the request of a party within 15 days after the mailing date of the decision and in the absence of an appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals. If a decision is vacated, notice shall be given to all parties of a new hearing to be held and decided by another presiding officer. Once a decision has become final as provided by statute, the presiding officer has no jurisdiction to reopen the record or vacate the decision.

(4) A request to reopen a record or vacate a decision may be heard ex parte by the presiding officer. The granting or denial of such a request may be used as a grounds for appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals upon the issuance of the presiding officer's final decision in the case.

(5) If good cause for postponement or reopening has not been shown, the presiding officer shall make a decision based upon whatever evidence is properly in the record.

The administrative law judge has carefully reviewed evidence in the record and concludes that the unemployment insurance decision previously entered in this case is correct and should be affirmed.

Pursuant to the rule, the appellant must make a written request 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 beginning of this decision and must explain the emergency or other good cause that prevented the appellant from participating in the hearing at its scheduled time.

DECISION:

The Agency representative's October 19, 2006, reference 03, decision is affirmed. The decision that the claimant is ineligible for benefits effective September 10, 2006, remains in effect. This

decision will become final unless a written request establishing good cause to reopen the record is made to the administrative law judge within 15 days of the date of this decision.

James E. Timberland
Administrative Law Judge

Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/cs