

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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

**ROBERT KUNKEL**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 14A-UI-01277-BT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**BRUCE LAMMERS INC**  
Employer

**OC: 12/15/13**  
**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 January 10, 2014, (reference 02) that concluded Robert Kunkel (claimant/appellant) was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits after a separation from employment from Bruce Lammers, Inc. (employer/respondent). Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 2:00 p.m. on February 26, 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 he could be reached for the hearing. Based upon the appellant's failure to participate in the hearing and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision.

**ISSUE:**

The issue is whether the appeal should be dismissed based upon the claimant/appellant's failure to participate in the 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.

The unemployment insurance decision had concluded that the claimant/appellant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits.

**REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The Iowa Administrative Procedures 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.

The Agency rules at Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provide 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 rules 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 appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the scheduled appeal hearing. The claimant/appellant has therefore defaulted on his 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 appellant disagrees with this decision, 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 end 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. The appellant also has the option to appeal the decision directly to the Employment Appeal Board, whose address is listed at the beginning of the decision.

**DECISION:**

The representative's unemployment insurance decision dated January 10, 2014, (reference 02) is affirmed. The decision denying benefits remains in effect.

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Susan D. Ackerman  
Administrative Law Judge  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

sda/pjs