

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

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**CLIFTAVIA LEIGH**  
Claimant

**S T L CARE COMPANY**  
Employer

**APPEAL NO. 14A-UI-01451-E**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**OC: 01/05/14  
Claimant: Respondent (6)**

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Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) - Default Decision  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) - Dismissal of Appeal on Default

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The employer/appellant filed a timely appeal from a representative's decision dated January 29, 2014, reference 01, that allowed benefits to the claimant. Notices of hearing were mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a hearing to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on May 14, 2014, before Administrative Law Judge Julie Elder. The employer/appellant did not respond to the hearing by appearing for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. Based on the employer/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 underlying decision should be affirmed and the appeal should be effectively dismissed based upon the employer/appellant's failure to participate in the hearing.

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The employer/appellant did not appear for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The representative's decision concluded that the claimant was 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 hearing by appearing for the hearing, 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 employer/appellant appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the scheduled appeal hearing. The employer/appellant has therefore defaulted on its 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 employer/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 employer/appellant from participating in the hearing at the scheduled time. The employer/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 29, 2014, reference 01, is affirmed. The decision allowing benefits to the claimant remains in effect.

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Julie Elder  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
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Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
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Decision Dated and Mailed

je/pjs