

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS**

**CANDICE A MCGEE-MADLOCK**  
Claimant

**APPEAL NO: 20A-UI-15626-JTT**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IA DEPT OF HUMAN SVCS – AREA & COUN**  
Employer

**OC: 08/09/20**  
**Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.5(1) – Voluntary Quit  
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 claimant, Candice McGee-Madlock, filed a timely appeal from the November 3, 2020, reference 03, decision that disqualified her for benefits and that held the employer's account would not be charged for benefits, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant voluntarily quit on May 8, 2020 without good cause attributable to the employer. A notice of hearing was mailed to the parties' last-known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 3:30 p.m. on January 25, 2021. The employer registered a telephone number for the hearing and was available through Judy Berry of Corporate Cost Control and witness Pauline Rutherford. The claimant/appellant, Ms. McGee-Madlock, registered a telephone number for the appeal hearing, but was not available at that number at the time of the hearing. Based upon the claimant/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:**

Should the appeal be dismissed based upon the claimant/appellant not participating in the hearing?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

The claimant is the appellant in this matter. The claimant was properly notified of the appeal hearing set for 3:30 p.m. on January 25, 2021 through the hearing notice that was mailed to her last-known address of record on January 12, 2021. The claimant did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. On January 22, 2021, the claimant spoke with an Appeals Bureau clerk to register a telephone number for the appeal hearing. At the time of the hearing, the administrative law judge made three attempts to reach the claimant at the registered number. On the first attempt, the claimant initially answered, but then terminated the call once the administrative law judge identified himself. The claimant and the administrative law judge had earlier the same day participated in an unrelated and were thereby familiar with one another's voice. On the second and third attempt to reach the claimant, no one answered and the administrative law judge left an

appropriate message. At 3:45 p.m., after the third attempt to reach the claimant, the administrative law judge closed the hearing record and dismissed the employer representative and employer witness from the appeal hearing. As of the entry of this decision, the administrative law judge has not heard from the claimant.

The November 3, 2020, reference 03, decision disqualified the claimant for benefits and held the employer's account would not be charged for benefits, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant voluntarily quit on May 8, 2020 without good cause attributable to the employer.

### **REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

The Iowa Administrative Procedures Act at Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) provides in pertinent part:

If a party fails to appear or participate in a contested case proceeding after proper service of notice, the presiding officer may, if no adjournment is granted, enter a default decision or proceed with the hearing and make a decision in the absence of the party. ... If a decision is rendered against a party who failed to appear for the hearing and the presiding officer is timely requested by that party to vacate the decision for good cause, the time for initiating a further appeal is stayed pending a determination by the presiding officer to grant or deny the request. If adequate reasons are provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall vacate the decision and, after proper service of notice, conduct another evidentiary hearing. If adequate reasons are not provided showing good cause for the party's failure to appear, the presiding officer shall deny the motion to vacate.

Iowa Administrative Code rule 871-26.14(7) provides:

(7) If a 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 presiding officer may proceed with the hearing. If the appealing party fails to provide a telephone number or is unavailable for the hearing, the presiding officer may decide the appealing party is in default and dismiss the appeal as provide in Iowa Code section 17A.12(3). The record may be reopened if the absent party makes a request to reopen the hearing in writing under subrule 26.8(3) and shows good cause for reopening the hearing.

a. If an absent party responds to the hearing notice while the hearing is in progress, the presiding officer shall pause to admit the party, summarize the hearing to that point, administer the oath, and resume the hearing.

b. If a party responds to the notice of hearing after the record has been closed and any party which has participated is no longer on the telephone line, the presiding officer shall not take the evidence of the late party.

c. Failure to read or follow the instructions on the notice of hearing shall not constitute good cause for reopening the record.

The claimant/appellant appealed 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.

**DECISION:**

The claimant defaulted on her appeal. The appeal is dismissed. The November 3, 2020, reference 03, decision that disqualified the claimant for benefits and that held the employer's account would not be charged for benefits, based on the deputy's conclusion that the claimant voluntarily quit on May 8, 2020 without good cause attributable to the employer, remains in effect.



---

James E. Timberland  
Administrative Law Judge  
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau  
Iowa Workforce Development  
1000 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209  
Fax 515-478-3528

February 10, 2021  
Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/lj

**NOTE TO CLAIMANT:**

- This decision determines you are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law. If you disagree with this decision you may file an appeal to the Employment Appeal Board by following the instructions on the first page of this decision.
- If you do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance benefits under state law and are currently unemployed for reasons related to COVID-19, you may qualify for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). **You will need to apply for PUA to determine your eligibility under the program.** For more information on how to apply for PUA, go to <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/pua-information>. **If you do not apply for and are not approved for PUA, you may be required to repay the benefits you have received.**