

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

ANDREW SCHLUMBOHM,
Claimant

APPEAL 21A-UI-12348-JD-T

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 03/15/20
Claimant: Appellant (6)**

Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Able and Available/Work Search
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.22(3) – Earnest and Active Search for Work
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.23(28) – Work Search Warning

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

On May 14, 2021, claimant Andrew Schlumbohm, filed an appeal from the May 11, 2021, (reference 01), unemployment insurance decision that warned claimant to make at least two work-search contacts per week but did not deny benefits for the week ending 10/24/2020. After due notice was issued, a telephone conference hearing was scheduled to be held at 11:00 a.m. on July 26, 2021. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system the same day shows the claimant/appellant did not register a telephone number at which to be reached for the hearing **OR** was not available at the telephone number provided for the hearing and no hearing was held.

ISSUE:

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

FINDINGS OF FACT:

Claimant was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The appellant did not register a telephone number at which to be reached **OR** was not available at the telephone number provided for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice.

The underlying decision warned claimant to make at least two work-search contacts per week but did not deny benefits for the week ending 10/24/2020.

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.

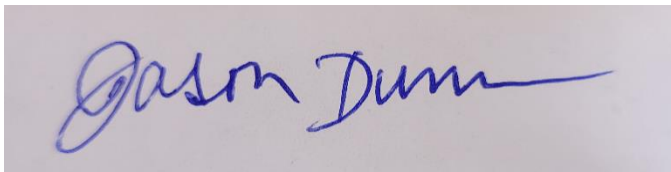
Agency rule Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7) provides that if the appealing party has not responded to a notice of telephone hearing by providing the Appeals Bureau with the names and telephone numbers of the persons who are participating in the hearing *by the scheduled starting time of the hearing 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 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. (Emphasis added.)

The appellant appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The appellant has therefore defaulted on the appeal pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.14(7), and the decision remains in force and effect.

If the appellant disagrees with this decision, a request to reopen the record must be made to the administrative law judge within 15 days after the mailing date of this decision. The 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 claimant/appellant from participating in the hearing at the scheduled time.

DECISION:

The appellant is in default and the appeal is dismissed. The unemployment insurance decision dated May 11, 2021, (reference 01) remains in effect.



Jason Dunn
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
1000 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0209
Fax (515) 478-3528

July 28, 2021
Decision Dated and Mailed

jd/mh