

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

CHRISTOPHER A MORTIMORE
Claimant

MORTON BUILDINGS INC
Employer

APPEAL 19A-UI-02614-H2T
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
DECISION

OC: 03/03/19
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 an unemployment insurance decision dated March 26, 2019, (reference 05) that denied benefits. Notice of hearing was mailed to the party's last known addresses of record for a telephone hearing to be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 15, 2019. A review of the Appeals Bureau's conference call system shows the claimant/appellant was not available at the number he provided he could be reached at for the hearing.

ISSUE:

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

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The party was properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal. The claimant/appellant failed to be available at the number he provided he could be reached at for the hearing. The representative's decision concluded that the claimant/appellant was not 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 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 written 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 claimant/appellant appealed the unemployment insurance decision but failed to participate in the hearing. The claimant/appellant has therefore defaulted on his appeal pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.12(3) and Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.14(7), and the decision remains in force and effect.

DECISION:

The unemployment insurance decision dated March 26, 2019, (reference 05), is affirmed. The decision denying benefits remains in effect.

Teresa K. Hillary
Administrative Law Judge
Unemployment Insurance Appeals Bureau
Iowa Workforce Development
1000 East Grand Avenue
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Fax 515-478-3528

Decision Dated and Mailed

tkh/rvs