IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS

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

STEPHANIE R HOOVER
Claimant

BEST BUY STORES LP
Employer

APPEAL NO. 12A-UI-09702-JTT

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DECISION

OC: 07/08/12
Claimant: Respondent (1)

Section 96.5(2)(a) - Discharge
871 IAC 26.8(5) - Decision on the Record

STATEMENT OF THE CASE:

The employer appealed from an unemployment insurance decision dated August 2, 2012, reference 01, that allowed benefits in connection with a July 13, 2012 discharge. A telephone hearing was scheduled for September 4, 2012. The employer did not respond to the hearing notice instructions and did not participate in the hearing. Claimant Stephanie Hoover was available for the hearing.

The administrative law judge notes that the issue set for hearing is incorrectly stated on the hearing notice as whether the claimant is able and available for work. The issue statement cannot be amended without both parties present. Despite the problem with the issue statement, the employer received appropriate notice of the hearing date and time.

Based on the employer/appellant's failure to participate in the hearing, the administrative file, and the law, the administrative law judge enters the following findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions of law and decision.

ISSUE:

Decision on the record.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

The parties were properly notified of the scheduled hearing on this appeal by notice mailed on August 16, 2012. The appellant, Best Buy Stores, L.P., failed to provide a telephone number at which a representative could be reached for the hearing and did not participate in the hearing or request a postponement of the hearing as required by the hearing notice. There is no evidence the hearing notice was returned by the postal service as undeliverable for any reason.

The administrative law judge reviewed the administrative file documents submitted for and generated in connection with the August 1, 2012 fact-finding interview to determine whether the August 2, 2012, reference 01, decision that allowed benefits in connection with a July 13, 2012 is appropriate based on that documentation.

REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

871 IAC 26.8(3), (4) and (5) provide:

> Withdrawals and postponements.
>
> (3) If, due to emergency or other good cause, a party, having received due notice, is unable to attend a hearing or request postponement within the prescribed time, the presiding officer may, if no decision has been issued, reopen the record and, with notice to all parties, schedule another hearing. If a decision has been issued, the decision may be vacated upon the presiding officer's own motion or at the request of a party within 15 days after the mailing date of the decision and in the absence of an appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals. If a decision is vacated, notice shall be given to all parties of a new hearing to be held and decided by another presiding officer. Once a decision has become final as provided by statute, the presiding officer has no jurisdiction to reopen the record or vacate the decision.
>
> (4) A request to reopen a record or vacate a decision may be heard ex parte by the presiding officer. The granting or denial of such a request may be used as a grounds for appeal to the employment appeal board of the department of inspections and appeals upon the issuance of the presiding officer's final decision in the case.
>
> (5) If good cause for postponement or reopening has not been shown, the presiding officer shall make a decision based upon whatever evidence is properly in the record.

The administrative law judge has carefully reviewed evidence in the record and concludes that the unemployment insurance decision previously entered in this case is correct and should be affirmed.

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 beginning 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.

DECISION:

The Agency representative's August 2, 2012, reference 01, decision is affirmed. The decision that allowed benefits in connection with a July 13, 2012 discharge remains in effect. This decision will become final unless a written request establishing good cause to reopen the record is made to the administrative law judge within 15 days of the date of this decision.

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James E. Timberland
Administrative Law Judge

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Decision Dated and Mailed

jet/kjw