

**IN THE IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS DIVISION  
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE APPEALS BUREAU**

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**FELIX SANTIESTEBAN**  
Claimant

**APPEAL 23A-UI-11794-B2-T**

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE  
DECISION**

**IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT**

**OC: 10/15/23  
Claimant: Appellant (6)**

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Iowa Code § 96.4(3) – Available for work  
Iowa Code § 96.4(7) – Reemployment services  
Iowa Code Ch. 17A – Iowa Administrative Procedure Act  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-24.19(3) – Claims Bureau Subsequent Action  
Iowa Admin. Code r. 871-26.11 - Motions

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE:**

The claimant filed an appeal from the unemployment insurance decision dated November 3, 2023 (reference 01), that he was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits as of October 29, 2023, because he failed to show for a meeting with a department representative. Before a hearing was held, Iowa Workforce Development issued a favorable decision to the claimant, dated January 2, 2024 (reference 03), stating that he is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits because the claimant rectified the situation. This decision made the issue on appeal moot. Therefore, no testimony or additional evidence was necessary. No hearing was scheduled or held.

**ISSUES:**

Should the most recent unemployment insurance decision be affirmed?

Should the appeal be dismissed as moot?

**FINDINGS OF FACT:**

These findings of fact are based on the pertinent agency documents relating to this claimant and his appeal. An unemployment insurance decision dated November 3, 2023 (reference 01), determined that the claimant was not eligible for unemployment insurance benefits as of October 29, 2023, because he failed to report to Iowa Workforce Development as required. The claimant appealed this decision. Before a hearing was held, Iowa Workforce Development issued a favorable decision to the claimant, dated January 2, 2024 (reference 03), stating that he is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits as long as he meets all the other eligibility requirements. The agency representative asked that the appeal be dismissed. This decision resolved the only issue on appeal in the claimant's favor, making the appeal moot.

## REASONING AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:

Generally, courts and administrative tribunals do not decide issues when the underlying controversy is moot. *Rhiner v. State*, 703 N.W.2d 174, 176 (Iowa 2005). “A case is moot if it no longer presents a justiciable controversy because the issues involved are academic or nonexistent.” *Iowa Bankers Ass’n v. Iowa Credit Union Dep’t*, 335 N.W.2d 439, 442 (Iowa 1983)

The decision appealed was amended in favor of the appellant, making this appeal moot. The appeal of the original representative’s decision dated November 3, 2023 (ref 01) is dismissed. The most recent decision dated January 2, 2024 (ref 03) is affirmed.

## DECISION:

The request to dismiss the appeal of the unemployment insurance decision dated November 3, 2023 (ref 01) is approved. The decision issued on January 2, 2024 (ref 03) is affirmed. The appeal is dismissed as moot.

  


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**Blair Bennett** | Administrative Law Judge II  
Iowa Department of Inspections & Appeals

January 11, 2024  
Decision Dated and Mailed

BAB/jkb

**APPEAL RIGHTS.** If you disagree with the decision, you or any interested party may:

1. Appeal to the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days of the date under the judge's signature by submitting a written appeal via mail, fax, or online to:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board  
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
Online: [eab.iowa.gov](http://eab.iowa.gov)**

The appeal period will be extended to the next business day if the last day to appeal falls on a weekend or a legal holiday. *There is no filing fee to file an appeal with the Employment Appeal Board.*

**AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD SHALL STATE CLEARLY:**

- 1) The name, address, and social security number of the claimant.
- 2) A reference to the decision from which the appeal is taken.
- 3) That an appeal from such decision is being made and such appeal is signed.
- 4) The grounds upon which such appeal is based.

An Employment Appeal Board decision is final agency action. If a party disagrees with the Employment Appeal Board decision, they may file a petition for judicial review in district court.

2. If you do not file an appeal of the judge's decision with the Employment Appeal Board within fifteen (15) days, the decision becomes final agency action, and you have the option to file a petition for judicial review in District Court within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final. Additional information on how to file a petition can be found at [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *There may be a filing fee to file the petition in District Court.*

**Note to Parties:** YOU MAY REPRESENT yourself in the appeal or obtain a lawyer or other interested party to do so provided there is no expense to Workforce Development. If you wish to be represented by a lawyer, you may obtain the services of either a private attorney or one whose services are paid for with public funds.

**Note to Claimant:** It is important that you file your weekly claim as directed, while this appeal is pending, to protect your continuing right to benefits.

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

A true and correct copy of this decision was mailed to each of the parties listed.

**DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN.** Si no está de acuerdo con la decisión, usted o cualquier parte interesada puede:

1. Apelar a la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días de la fecha bajo la firma del juez presentando una apelación por escrito por correo, fax o en línea a:

**Iowa Employment Appeal Board  
6200 Park Avenue Suite 100  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321  
Fax: (515)281-7191  
En línea: eab.iowa.gov**

El período de apelación se extenderá hasta el siguiente día hábil si el último día para apelar cae en fin de semana o día feriado legal. *No hay tarifa de presentación para presentar una apelación ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo.*

UNA APELACIÓN A LA JUNTA DEBE ESTABLECER CLARAMENTE:

- 1) El nombre, dirección y número de seguro social del reclamante.
- 2) Una referencia a la decisión de la que se toma la apelación.
- 3) Que se interponga recurso de apelación contra tal decisión y se firme dicho recurso.
- 4) Los fundamentos en que se funda dicho recurso.

Una decisión de la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo es una acción final de la agencia. Si una de las partes no está de acuerdo con la decisión de la Junta de Apelación de Empleo, puede presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el tribunal de distrito.

2. Si no presenta una apelación de la decisión del juez ante la Junta de Apelación de Empleo dentro de los quince (15) días, la decisión se convierte en una acción final de la agencia y tiene la opción de presentar una petición de revisión judicial en el Tribunal de Distrito dentro de los treinta (30) días. Puede encontrar información adicional sobre cómo presentar una petición en [www.iowacourts.gov/efile](http://www.iowacourts.gov/efile). *Puede haber una tarifa de presentación para presentar la petición en el Tribunal de Distrito.*

**Nota para las partes:** USTED PUEDE REPRESENTARSE en la apelación u obtener un abogado u otra parte interesada para que lo haga, siempre que no haya gastos para Workforce Development. Si desea ser representado por un abogado, puede obtener los servicios de un abogado privado o uno cuyos servicios se paguen con fondos públicos.

**Nota para el reclamante:** es importante que presente su reclamo semanal según las instrucciones, mientras esta apelación está pendiente, para proteger su derecho continuo a los beneficios.

**SERVICIO DE INFORMACIÓN:**

Se envió por correo una copia fiel y correcta de esta decisión a cada una de las partes enumeradas.