

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2021-EAB-0106

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FINDINGS OF FACT: On May, 21 2019, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant willfully made a misrepresentation and failed to report a material fact to obtain benefits, and assessing a \$1064.00 overpayment that claimant was required to repay to the Department, a \$159.60 monetary penalty, and a 7 week penalty disqualification from future benefits (decision # 195738). On June 10, 2019, decision # 195738 became final without claimant having filed a timely request for hearing. On December 17, 2020, claimant filed a late request for hearing on decision # 195738.

On January 8, 2021, ALJ Kangas issued Order No. 21-UI-158831, dismissing claimant's request for hearing as late, subject to claimant's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by January 22, 2021. On January 28, 2021, claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review of Order No. 21-UI-158831 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB).¹ On February 10, 2021, ALJ Kangas mailed a letter stating that the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) would not consider claimant's questionnaire response or issue another order regarding this matter because the questionnaire response was late. This matter comes before EAB based upon claimant's January 28, 2021 application for review of Order No. 21-UI-158831.

EVIDENTIARY MATTER: EAB has considered additional evidence when reaching this decision under OAR 471-041-0090(1) (May 13, 2019). The additional evidence is claimant's response to the appellant questionnaire, marked as EAB Exhibit 1, a copy of which has been provided to the parties with this decision. Any party that objects to our admitting EAB Exhibit 1 must submit such objection to this office in writing, setting forth the basis of the objection in writing, within ten days of our mailing this decision. OAR 471-041-0090(2). Unless such objection is received and sustained, the exhibit(s) will remain in the record.

¹ Claimant filed their application for review by mail. The filing date for an application for review filed by mail is the postmark date affixed to the envelope in which the application was mailed. OAR 471-041-0065(1)(b) (May 13, 2019). The envelope in which claimant mailed their application for review was not postmarked. Where information necessary to determine a filing date is missing, "the filing date is the date that EAB determines to be the most probable date of filing." OAR 471-041-0065(2). Given that claimant signed the application for review on January 24, 2021 and EAB received the application for review on February 1, 2021, EAB deems the most probable date of filing to be January 28, 2021.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 21-UI-158831 is set aside and this matter remanded for a hearing on whether claimant's late request for hearing on decision # 195738 should be allowed and, if so, the merits of that decision.

ORS 657.269 provides that the Department's decisions become final unless a party files a request for hearing within 20 days after the date the decision is mailed. ORS 657.875 provides that the 20-day deadline may be extended a "reasonable time" upon a showing of "good cause." OAR 471-040-0010 (February 10, 2012) provides that "good cause" includes factors beyond an applicant's reasonable control or an excusable mistake, and defines "reasonable time" as seven days after those factors ceased to exist.

In their response to the appellant questionnaire, claimant indicated that their request for hearing was late because they did not receive a copy of decision # 195738 and only became aware of the decision in December 2020. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. Claimant explained that they were prompted to file their hearing request on December 17, 2020 because their "stimulus check was garnished by the unemployment dept. and [they] called to find out why." EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. Claimant did not provide additional details regarding how they came to learn of decision # 195738. Nor did claimant state precisely when they became aware of decision # 195738, only that they became aware of it in "Dec 2020". EAB Exhibit 1 at 2.

Claimant's response to the appellant questionnaire suggests that claimant may have filed their request for hearing late due to factors beyond their reasonable control or an excusable mistake. However, further inquiry is needed to make that determination. The inquiry should include whether claimant received decision # 195738 and if they did not, when they became aware of the decision, when the factors that prevented a timely filing ceased to exist, and whether claimant's December 17, 2020 hearing request was made within a "reasonable time" after the circumstances that prevented a timely filing ceased to exist.

Order No. 21-UI-158831 therefore is reversed, and this matter remanded for a hearing on whether claimant's late request for hearing on decision # 195738 should be allowed and, if so, the merits of that decision.

DECISION: Order No. 21-UI-158831 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

S. Alba and D. P. Hettle.

DATE of Service: February 19, 2021

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 20-UI-155721 or return this matter to EAB. Only a timely application for review of the subsequent order will cause this matter to return to EAB.

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Understanding Your Employment Appeals Board Decision

English

Attention – This decision affects your unemployment benefits. If you do not understand this decision, contact the Employment Appeals Board immediately. If you do not agree with this decision, you may file a Petition for Judicial Review with the Oregon Court of Appeals following the instructions written at the end of the decision.

Simplified Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Traditional Chinese

注意 – 本判決會影響您的失業救濟金。如果您不明白本判決，請立即聯繫就業上訴委員會。如果您不同意此判決，您可以按照該判決結尾所寫的說明，向俄勒岡州上訴法院提出司法複審申請。

Tagalog

Paalala – Nakakaapekto ang desisyong ito sa iyong mga benepisyo sa pagkawala ng trabaho. Kung hindi mo naiintindihan ang desisyong ito, makipag-ugnayan kaagad sa Lupon ng mga Apela sa Trabaho (Employment Appeals Board). Kung hindi ka sumasang-ayon sa desisyong ito, maaari kang maghain ng isang Petisyon sa Pagsusuri ng Hukuman (Petition for Judicial Review) sa Hukuman sa Paghahabol (Court of Appeals) ng Oregon na sinusunod ang mga tagubilin na nakasulat sa dulo ng desisyong ito.

Vietnamese

Chú ý - Quyết định này ảnh hưởng đến trợ cấp thất nghiệp của quý vị. Nếu quý vị không hiểu quyết định này, hãy liên lạc với Ban Kháng Cáo Việc Làm ngay lập tức. Nếu quý vị không đồng ý với quyết định này, quý vị có thể nộp Đơn Xin Tái Xét Tư Pháp với Tòa Kháng Cáo Oregon theo các hướng dẫn được viết ra ở cuối quyết định này.

Spanish

Atención – Esta decisión afecta sus beneficios de desempleo. Si no entiende esta decisión, comuníquese inmediatamente con la Junta de Apelaciones de Empleo. Si no está de acuerdo con esta decisión, puede presentar una Aplicación de Revisión Judicial ante el Tribunal de Apelaciones de Oregon siguiendo las instrucciones escritas al final de la decisión.

Russian

Внимание – Данное решение влияет на ваше пособие по безработице. Если решение Вам непонятно – немедленно обратитесь в Апелляционный Комитет по Трудоустройству. Если Вы не согласны с принятым решением, вы можете подать Ходатайство о Пересмотре Судебного Решения в Апелляционный Суд штата Орегон, следуя инструкциям, описанным в конце решения.

Khmer

ចំណុចសំខាន់ – សេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះមានផលប៉ះពាល់ដល់អត្ថប្រយោជន៍គ្មានការងារធ្វើរបស់លោកអ្នក។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់អំពីសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ សូមទាក់ទងគណៈកម្មការឧទ្ធរណ៍ការងារភ្លាមៗ។ ប្រសិនបើលោកអ្នកមិនយល់ស្របចំពោះសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះទេ លោកអ្នកអាចដាក់ពាក្យប្តឹងសុំឲ្យមានការពិនិត្យរឿងក្តីឡើងវិញជាមួយតុលាការឧទ្ធរណ៍រដ្ឋ Oregon ដោយអនុវត្តតាមសេចក្តីណែនាំដែលសរសេរនៅខាងចុងបញ្ចប់នៃសេចក្តីសម្រេចនេះ។

Laotian

ເອົາໃຈໃສ່ – ຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້ມີຜົນກະທົບຕໍ່ກັບເງິນຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອການຫວ່າງງານຂອງທ່ານ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຂົ້າໃຈຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້, ກະລຸນາຕິດຕໍ່ຫາຄະນະກຳມະການອຸທອນການຈ້າງງານໃນທັນທີ. ຖ້າທ່ານບໍ່ເຫັນດີນຳຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້, ທ່ານສາມາດຍື່ນຄຳຮ້ອງຂໍການທົບທວນຄຳຕັດສິນນຳສານອຸທອນລັດ Oregon ໄດ້ ໂດຍປະຕິບັດຕາມຄຳແນະນຳທີ່ບອກໄວ້ຢູ່ຕອນຫ້າຍຂອງຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້.

Arabic

هذا القرار قد يؤثر على منحة البطالة الخاصة بك، إذا لم تفهم هذا القرار، إتصل بمجلس منازعات العمل فوراً، و إذا كنت لا توافق على هذا القرار، يمكنك رفع شكوى للمراجعة القانونية بمحكمة الاستئناف بأوريغون و ذلك بإتباع الإرشادات المدرجة أسفل القرار.

Farsi

توجه - این حکم بر مزایای بیکاری شما تاثیر می گذارد. اگر با این تصمیم موافق نیستید، بلافاصله با هیأت فرجام خواهی استخدام تماس بگیرید. اگر از این حکم رضایت ندارید، می‌توانید با استفاده از دستور العمل موجود در پایان آن، از دادگاه تجدید نظر اورگان درخواست تجدید نظر کنید.

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