

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2021-EAB-0594

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FINDINGS OF FACT: On November 12, 2020, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision assessing an overpayment of \$1,057 in regular unemployment insurance benefits and \$1,200 in Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) benefits that claimant was required to repay the Department (decision # 125921). On December 2, 2020, decision # 125921 became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On March 8, 2021, claimant filed a late request for hearing. ALJ Kangas reviewed claimant's request, and on April 5, 2021 issued Order No. 21-UI-164120, dismissing the request as late subject to claimant's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by April 19, 2021.

On April 26, 2021, claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review of Order No. 21-UI-164120 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB). On May 12, 2021, ALJ Kangas mailed a letter to claimant stating that because claimant's response to the appellant questionnaire was late, it would not be considered, another order would not be issued, and Order No. 21-UI-164120 remained in effect. This matter comes before EAB based upon claimant's timely application for review of Order No. 21-UI-164120.

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, and a copy is 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, EAB Exhibit 1 will remain in the record.

The parties may offer new information such as other information that shows whether claimant had good cause for filing a late request for hearing on decision # 125921, and filed their late request within a reasonable time, into evidence at the remand hearing. At that time, it will be determined if the new information will be admitted into the record. The parties must follow the instructions on the notice of the remand hearing regarding documents they wish to have considered at the hearing. These instructions

will direct the parties to provide copies of such documents to the ALJ and the other parties in advance of the hearing at their addresses as shown on the certificate of mailing for the notice of hearing.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 21-UI-164120 is set aside and this matter remanded for a hearing on whether claimant's late request for hearing on decision # 125921 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.

The deadline for claimant to file a timely request for hearing on decision # 125921 was December 2, 2020. Claimant filed their request for hearing on that decision on March 8, 2021. Exhibit 2. Therefore, the request for hearing was late. However, claimant's response to the appellant questionnaire indicates that claimant may have had good cause to file their request for hearing late because claimant may not have received decision # 125921 in the mail. In their response to the appellant questionnaire, claimant stated that they "never received" the administrative decision, and that "[a] guy called me one day to tell me I owed money." EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. Claimant explained that the call they had received was "from the overpayment department" and that during the call, claimant received information about how to submit a hearing request. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. Claimant further explained that they sent a hearing request "the next day," which claimant clarified was "via email on Mar[ch] 8, 2020." EAB Exhibit 1 at 2.

That claimant apparently "never received" decision # 125921 in the mail may have constituted a factor beyond claimant's reasonable control that prevented claimant from filing a request for hearing by the December 2, 2020 deadline. However, the record is insufficient to determine why claimant may not have received the decision in the regular course of the mail, such as whether claimant changed their mailing address or had experienced difficulty in receiving their mail on or around November 12, 2020, and if so, the details of those circumstances. The record also is insufficient to determine whether claimant may have been absent from their residence between November 12, 2020 and March 7, 2021 and if so, what steps claimant took to receive and review their mail during any period of absence. Finally, the record is insufficient to determine whether, if claimant had good cause for their late hearing request, that claimant filed the request for hearing no more than seven days after the circumstances that prevented claimant from making a timely hearing request ended.

ORS 657.270 requires the ALJ to give all parties a reasonable opportunity for a fair hearing. That obligation necessarily requires the ALJ to ensure that the record developed shows a full and fair inquiry into the facts necessary for consideration of all issues properly before the ALJ in a case. ORS 657.270(3); *see accord Dennis v. Employment Division*, 302 Or 160, 728 P2d 12 (1986). Because further development of the record is necessary for a determination of whether claimant had good cause for their late hearing request and filed the request no more than seven days after the circumstances that prevented claimant from making a timely hearing request ended, Order No. 21-UI-164120 is reversed, and this matter is remanded for a hearing on whether claimant's late request for hearing should be allowed, and if so, the merits of decision # 125921.

DECISION: Order No. 21-UI-164120 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

S. Alba and D. Hettle;
A. Steger-Bentz, not participating.

DATE of Service: July 29, 2021

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 21-UI-164120 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 ໂດຍປະຕິບັດຕາມຄໍາແນະນໍາທີ່ບອກໄວ້ຢູ່ຕອນທ້າຍຂອງຄໍາຕັດສິນນີ້.

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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