

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2021-EAB-0928

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FINDINGS OF FACT: On July 22, 2021, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant was discharged, but not for misconduct, and was not disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits based on the work separation (decision # 93531). On August 11, 2021, decision # 93531 became final without the employer having filed a request for hearing. On August 13, 2021, the employer filed a late request for hearing on decision # 93531.

ALJ Kangas considered the employer's request, and on October 7, 2021 issued Order No. 21-UI-176572, dismissing the employer's request for hearing as late, subject to the employer's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by October 21, 2021. On October 27, 2021, the employer filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review of Order No. 21-UI-176572 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB). On November 4, 2021, ALJ Kangas mailed a letter stating that the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) would not consider the employer's questionnaire response or issue another order regarding this matter because the questionnaire response was late. This matter comes before EAB based upon the employer's October 27, 2021 application for review of Order No. 21-UI-176572.

EVIDENTIARY MATTER: EAB has considered additional evidence when reaching this decision under OAR 471-041-0090(1) (May 13, 2019). The additional evidence is the employer's response to the appellant questionnaire and attached documentation, marked as EAB Exhibit 1, and a copy 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 will remain in the record.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 21-UI-176572 is set aside and this matter remanded for a hearing on whether the employer's request for hearing on decision # 93531 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 request for hearing on decision # 93531 was due by August 11, 2021. Because the employer did not submit their request for hearing until August 13, 2021, the request was late. In their appellant questionnaire response, however, the employer suggested that decision # 93531 was "issued on August 2, 2021 [with an] appeal response required by August 23, 2021[.]" EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. Further, the employer enclosed with the questionnaire response a copy of their response to the "Notice of Claim Filed Request for Separation Information" ("Form 220") that they had filed with the Department on July 28, 2021. EAB Exhibit 1 at 4-8. The employer's response to the Form 220 was due to the Department no later than July 30, 2021, and their response was therefore timely. EAB Exhibit 1 at 4. As such, the employer became entitled to a copy of decision # 93531 on July 27, 2021, whereas they had not been entitled to a copy of the administrative decision when it was originally issued.¹ Additionally, a note dated July 30, 2021 and entered into claimant's claim record within the Department's claim system states that:

Timely 220 Received for Daifuku Cleanroom. Decision sent on 08/02/21.²

When the above evidence is read together, it is reasonable to infer that the Department may have amended or otherwise reissued decision # 93531 in response to the employer's timely response to the Form 220. If so, the associated appeal deadline for decision # 93531 may have changed, and the employer's request for hearing may likewise have been filed timely. On remand, the ALJ should direct inquiry towards the Department's witness to determine whether decision # 93531 was amended or otherwise reissued; and if so, when it was mailed to the employer and what the stated appeal deadline was on the copy mailed to the employer. To the extent that the record on remand does not show that decision # 93531 or its appeal deadline was amended, the ALJ should inquire as to what caused the employer to file the request for hearing after the timely filing deadline and whether the late request for hearing should be allowed.

Order No. 21-UI-176572 therefore is reversed, and this matter remanded for a hearing on whether the employer's request for hearing should be allowed and, if so, the merits of decision # 93531.

DECISION: Order No. 21-UI-176572 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

¹ See ORS 657.267(3).

² EAB has taken notice of this fact, which is contained in Employment Department records. OAR 471-041-0090(1) (May 13, 2019). Any party that objects to our taking notice of this information 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 noticed fact will remain in the record.

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

DATE of Service: December 2, 2021

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 21-UI-176572 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 desisyon.

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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