

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2023-EAB-0221

Reversed
Late Request for Hearing Allowed
Merits Hearing Required

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On April 11, 2022, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served a Notice of Determination for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) concluding that claimant was not entitled to receive PUA benefits effective February 2, 2020. On May 2, 2022, the April 11, 2022 administrative decision became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On May 26, 2022, claimant filed a late request for hearing. ALJ Kangas considered claimant's request, and on September 8, 2022 issued Order No. 22-UI-202312, dismissing claimant's request for hearing as late, subject to claimant's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by September 22, 2022. On September 28, 2022, claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review of Order No. 22-UI-202312 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB). On February 13, 2023, 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 September 28, 2022 application for review of Order No. 22-UI-202312.

EVIDENTIARY MATTER: EAB has considered additional evidence when reaching this decision under OAR 471-041-0090(1) (May 13, 2019). The additional evidence consists of claimant's September 28, 2022 response to the appellant questionnaire, and has been 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.

FINDINGS OF FACT: (1) On April 11, 2022, the Department mailed the April 11, 2022 administrative decision to claimant's address on file with the Department. The April 11, 2022 administrative decision stated, "You have the right to appeal this decision if you do not believe it is correct. Your request for appeal must be received by May 2, 2022." Exhibit 1 at 2.

(2) Claimant never received the April 11, 2022 administrative decision. On May 2, 2022, the April 11, 2022 administrative decision became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing.

(3) On or around May 8, 2022, claimant received an administrative decision from the Department dated May 6, 2022. The May 6, 2022 administrative decision, which was based in part on the April 11, 2022 administrative decision, concluded that claimant had willfully made a misrepresentation of material fact and been overpaid benefits (including PUA benefits) to which they were not entitled, and assessed an overpayment and monetary penalty that claimant was required to repay to the Department. The May 6, 2022 administrative decision stated that any appeal from that decision must be made by May 26, 2022 to be timely. The May 6, 2022 administrative decision mentioned the April 11, 2022 administrative decision but did not contain information regarding appeal rights, or the timely filing deadline, for that decision.¹ Claimant was not aware of the fact that they were required to file a request for hearing on the April 11, 2022 administrative decision if they wished to appeal the outcome of that decision. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2.

(4) On May 26, 2022, claimant filed a request for hearing that was construed as a timely request as to the May 6, 2022 administrative decision and a late request as to the April 11, 2022 administrative decision.²

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 22-UI-202312 is reversed and this matter remanded for a hearing on the merits of the April 11, 2022 administrative 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 the April 11, 2022 administrative decision was due by May 2, 2022. Because claimant did not file their request for hearing until May 26, 2022, the request was late. The record shows that claimant did not file their request for hearing prior to the timely filing deadline because they never received a copy of the April 11, 2022 administrative decision. This constituted a factor beyond claimant's reasonable control. Additionally, although the May 6, 2022 administrative decision mentioned the April 11, 2022 administrative decision, it did not apprise claimant of their appeal rights regarding the earlier decision. As a result, claimant neither knew nor had reason to know about the appeal deadline for the April 11, 2022 administrative decision. As such, the factors which prevented

¹ EAB has taken notice of these facts, which are 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.

² EAB has taken notice of these facts, which are contained in Employment Department records. OAR 471-041-0090(1). 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.

claimant from filing a timely request for hearing on the April 11, 2022 administrative decision did not cease to exist until claimant filed the request for hearing on May 26, 2022. As the factors ceased to exist on the same day that claimant filed the request for hearing, claimant filed it within a reasonable time.

For the above reasons, claimant had good cause for failing to file a timely request for hearing, and filed their late request for hearing within a reasonable time. Claimant's late request for hearing on the April 11, 2022 administrative decision therefore is allowed, and claimant is entitled to a hearing on the merits of that decision.

DECISION: Order No. 22-UI-202312 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

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

DATE of Service: February 27, 2023

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 22-UI-202312 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 ໄດ້ໂດຍປະຕິບັດຕາມຄຳແນະນຳທີ່ບອກໄວ້ຢູ່ຕອນທ້າຍຂອງຄຳຕັດສິນນີ້.

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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El Departamento de Empleo de Oregon es un programa que respeta la igualdad de oportunidades. Disponemos de servicios o ayudas auxiliares, formatos alternos y asistencia de idiomas para personas con discapacidades o conocimiento limitado del inglés, a pedido y sin costo.