

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2023-EAB-0463

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FINDINGS OF FACT: On June 9, 2022, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant failed to provide information in accordance with the Department's rules and therefore was ineligible for unemployment insurance benefits for the week of May 8, 2022 through May 14, 2021 (week 19-22), and until the reason for the denial had ended (decision # 115940). On June 10, 2022, the Department served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant was discharged for misconduct and was disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits effective May 1, 2022 (decision # 134921). On June 29, 2022, decision # 115940 became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On June 30, 2022, decision # 134921 became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On August 12, 2022, claimant filed late requests for hearing on decisions # 115940 and 134921.

ALJ Kangas considered claimant's request, and on November 22, 2022 issued Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040, respectively dismissing the requests for hearing on decisions # 115940 and 134921 as late, subject to claimant's right to renew the requests by responding to an appellant questionnaire by December 6, 2022. On December 7, 2022 claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and timely applications for review of Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB). On April 13, 2023, ALJ Kangas mailed letters stating that the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) would not consider claimant's questionnaire response or issue additional orders regarding the matters because the questionnaire response was late. These matters come before EAB based upon claimant's December 7, 2022 applications for review of Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040.

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 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.

Pursuant to OAR 471-041-0095 (October 29, 2006), EAB consolidated its review of Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040. For case-tracking purposes, this decision is being issued in duplicate (EAB Decisions 2023-EAB-0463 and 2023-EAB-0462).

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040 are set aside and these matters remanded for hearings on whether claimant’s late requests for hearing on decisions # 115940 and 134921 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.

On June 9, 2022, the Department mailed decision # 115940 to claimant at claimant’s address of record on file with the Department. The 20-day deadline for claimant to file a timely request for hearing on that decision was June 29, 2022. Claimant did not file a request for hearing until August 12, 2022. Accordingly, claimant’s request for hearing on decision # 115940 was late.

On June 10, 2022, the Department mailed decision # 134921 to claimant at claimant’s address of record on file with the Department. The 20-day deadline for claimant to file a timely request for hearing on that decision was June 30, 2022. Claimant did not file a request for hearing until August 12, 2022. Accordingly, claimant’s request for hearing on decision # 134921 was late.

In their appellant questionnaire response, claimant stated that the reason they did not timely file the hearing requests was because “correspondence was unfortunately sent to an incorrect address, USPS failed to appropriately forward.” EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. If claimant did not receive the administrative decisions in these cases, claimant’s late requests for hearing may have been due to factors beyond their reasonable control. However, further inquiry is needed to determine whether claimant had good cause to file the late requests for hearing, and whether they filed the late request for hearing within a reasonable time. On remand, the ALJ should develop the record to confirm that claimant actually received both decision # 115940 and decision # 134921, precisely when claimant did so (if they did), and whether claimant’s requests for hearing were filed within a seven-day “reasonable time” of that date. To the extent the record on remand shows that claimant did not receive decisions # 115940 and 134921 because they were not timely forwarded, the ALJ should inquire whether claimant failed to receive the decisions due to not notifying the Department of an updated address while claimant was claiming benefits or knew or reasonably should know of a pending appeal. *See* OAR 471-040-0010(1)(b)(A).

Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040 therefore are reversed, and these matters remanded for hearings on whether claimant’s late requests for hearing should be allowed, and if so, the merits of decisions # 115940 and 134921.

DECISION: Orders No. 22-UI-208039 and 22-UI-208040 are set aside, and these matters remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

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

DATE of Service: April 26, 2023

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearings on remand will not reinstate Orders No. 22-UI-208039 or 22-UI-208040 or return these matters to EAB. Only a timely application for review of the respective subsequent order will cause either of these matters to return to EAB.

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

DATE of Service:

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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 الإستئناف 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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