

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2023-EAB-1003

Reversed & Remanded

PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND FINDINGS OF FACT: On December 30, 2020, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant voluntarily quit work without good cause and was disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits effective September 20, 2020 (decision #121921). Claimant filed a timely request for hearing. On February 16, 2022, ALJ Logan conducted a hearing, and on February 24, 2022 issued Order No. 22-UI-187232, reversing decision # 121921 by concluding that claimant voluntarily quit work with good cause, and was not disqualified from receiving benefits based on the work separation. On March 14, 2022, the employer filed an application for review with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB).

On June 1, 2022, EAB issued EAB Decision 2022-EAB-0360, reversing Order No. 22-UI-187232 and remanding the matter for further proceedings. On April 21, 2023, notice was mailed to the parties of a hearing scheduled for May 3, 2023. On May 3, 2023, ALJ Logan conducted a hearing at which claimant failed to appear, and on May 4, 2023 issued Order No. 23-UI-223897, affirming decision # 121921. On May 23, 2023, claimant filed an application for review with EAB that also constituted a request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing. This matter comes before EAB based upon claimant's May 23, 2023 application for review.

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 written statement enclosed with claimant's application for review 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.

The attachments to the statement are not relevant to the issue currently before EAB involving whether the May 3, 2023 hearing should be reopened, and therefore were not considered. The parties may offer new information relevant to whether the request to reopen should be allowed or to the merits of decision # 121921 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. 23-UI-223897 is set aside and the matter remanded for a hearing to determine whether claimant's request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing should be allowed and, if so, the merits of decision # 121921.

ORS 657.270(5) provides that any party who failed to appear at a hearing may request to reopen the hearing, and the request will be allowed if it was filed within 20 days of the date the hearing decision was issued and shows good cause for failing to appear. "Good cause" exists when the requesting party's failure to appear at the hearing arose from an excusable mistake or from factors beyond the party's reasonable control. OAR 471-040-0040(2) (February 10, 2012). The party requesting reopening shall set forth the reason(s) for missing the hearing in a written statement, which the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) shall consider in determining whether good cause exists for failing to appear at the hearing. OAR 471-040-0040(3).

OAR 471-040-0040(6) provides that OAH will treat as a request to reopen the hearing any application for review that a party files with the Employment Appeals Board or the Employment Department, where the filing party failed to appear at the hearing that led to the decision on appeal, unless the applicant specifically states in the application that the applicant does not wish to have the case reopened. In the event that the OAH subsequently denies the request to reopen the hearing, it shall return the case to the Employment Appeals Board, which will then proceed to review the merits of the substantive decision. The original application for review shall serve as the basis for the Employment Appeals Board's review of the merits of that decision.

Claimant failed to appear at the May 3, 2023 hearing. She did not specifically state in her application for review that she did not wish to have the case reopened. EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. Accordingly, claimant's May 23, 2023 application for review must be treated as a request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing.

Claimant's request to reopen was filed within 20 days of the May 4, 2023 mailing of Order No. 23-UI-223897, and was therefore timely. Claimant's request included a written statement setting forth the reason she missed the hearing, specifically that she "was unaware due to moving and the postal service having issues with location of addresses." EAB Exhibit 1 at 1. Claimant has therefore met the threshold requirements of OAR 471-040-0040, and a hearing to determine whether she had good cause to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing is required.

For these reasons, Order No. 23-UI-223897 is set aside, and the matter remanded for a hearing to determine whether claimant's request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing should be allowed and, if so, the merits of decision # 121921. If the request to reopen is denied on remand, this matter shall be

returned to EAB to consider claimant's May 23, 2023 application for review, in accordance with OAR 471-040-0040(6).

DECISION: Order No. 23-UI-223897 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: September 20, 2023

NOTE: On remand, a subsequent order denying claimant's request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing will return this matter to EAB. However, if an order is issued allowing claimant's request to reopen the May 3, 2023 hearing, only a timely application for review of that 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 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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