

EMPLOYMENT APPEALS BOARD DECISION
2024-EAB-0143

Reversed
Late Request for Hearing Allowed
Merits Hearing Required

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On June 16, 2023, the Oregon Employment Department (the Department) served notice of an administrative decision concluding that claimant was discharged for misconduct and therefore was disqualified from receiving unemployment insurance benefits effective April 30, 2023 (decision # 123253). On July 6, 2023, decision # 123253 became final without claimant having filed a request for hearing. On July 27, 2023, claimant filed a late request for hearing on decision # 123253. ALJ Kangas considered claimant's request, and on January 10, 2024, issued Order No. 24-UI-245241, dismissing claimant's request for hearing as late, subject to claimant's right to renew the request by responding to an appellant questionnaire by January 24, 2024. On January 30, 2024, claimant filed a late response to the appellant questionnaire and a timely application for review of Order No. 24-UI-245241 with the Employment Appeals Board (EAB). On February 12, 2024, 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 January 30, 2024, application for review of Order No. 24-UI-245241.

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.

FINDINGS OF FACT: (1) On June 16, 2023, the Department mailed decision # 123253 to claimant's address on file with the Department. Decision # 123253 stated, "You have the right to appeal this decision if you do not believe it is correct. Your request for appeal must be received no later than July 6, 2023." Exhibit 1 at 2.

(2) On June 17, 2023, claimant received decision # 123253 in the mail. EAB Exhibit 1 at 1.

(3) When claimant received decision # 123253, claimant was unemployed with no income and their telephone had been shut off. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. Claimant resided in a rural area outside of Junction City, Oregon. Exhibit 1 at 1. Claimant had no transportation to get to town and was without the funds necessary to obtain transportation. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2. Claimant needed to get to town to mail or fax a request for hearing on decision # 123253. EAB Exhibit 1 at 2.

(4) On July 27, 2023, claimant gained access to a working telephone. That day, claimant filed a late request for hearing on decision # 123253 using the Department's hearing request online webform, which claimant accessed using the telephone to which they had gained access.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS: Order No. 24-UI-245241 is reversed, claimant's late request for hearing is allowed, and a hearing on the merits of decision # 123253 is required.

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 16, 2023, the Department mailed decision # 123253 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 July 6, 2023. Claimant did not file a request for hearing on decision # 123253 until July 27, 2023. Accordingly, claimant's request for hearing was late.

Claimant established good cause to extend the filing deadline to July 27, 2023, and filed their request for hearing within a reasonable time. When claimant received decision # 123253, claimant was unemployed with no income. Claimant needed to get to town to mail or fax a request for hearing on decision # 123253. However, claimant resided in a rural area outside of Junction City, Oregon, had no transportation to get to town, and was without the funds necessary to obtain transportation. Claimant's telephone had been turned off as of the time they received decision # 123253, and it is reasonable to conclude that claimant's telephone was their only method of accessing the internet and of calling the Department to make a request for hearing telephonically. These circumstances constituted factors beyond claimant's reasonable control that prevented them from timely filing a request for hearing.

On July 27, 2023, however, claimant gained access to a working telephone and was able to use it to file a hearing request on decision # 123253. Therefore, on that date, the factor beyond claimant's reasonable control ceased to exist. Because claimant filed their hearing request on the same day the factor beyond their control ceased, the request was filed within a seven-day reasonable time.

Accordingly, claimant established good cause to extend the deadline to file a request for hearing on decision # 123253 a reasonable time to July 27, 2023. Claimant's late request for hearing is therefore allowed, and claimant is entitled to a hearing on the merits of decision # 123253.

DECISION: Order No. 24-UI-245241 is set aside, and this matter remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order.

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

DATE of Service: March 6, 2024

NOTE: The failure of any party to appear at the hearing on remand will not reinstate Order No. 24-UI-245241 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 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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