

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Sparks v. Idaho Department of Labor, Docket No. 45420

Carla Sparks appealed an Idaho Industrial Commission (the “Commission”) decision, which affirmed an Idaho Department of Labor (“IDOL”) finding that she was not entitled to unemployment benefits after being discharged by her employer, Laura Drake Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. (“Drake Insurance”). The appeals examiner held a telephonic hearing to determine Sparks’ unemployment benefit eligibility, but Sparks failed to appear. As a result, Laura Drake’s sworn testimony about the details of Sparks’ termination was undisputed. The appeals examiner found that Sparks was terminated for cause and thus was not entitled to unemployment benefits. The Commission affirmed and Sparks appealed.

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the Commission’s decision, holding that: (1) the hearing officer/Commission’s denial of Sparks’ request to provide additional evidence after the initial hearing was not an abuse of discretion; and (2) the Commission’s holding that Sparks’ was not eligible for unemployment benefits because she was terminated for cause was supported by substantial and competent evidence.