

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Sheehan v. Sun Valley Co.

Docket No. 48926

Sheehan lost his job as a result of the economic downturn brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. He applied for and began receiving unemployment benefits. It was later determined that he was no longer eligible for benefits and that Sheehan was overpaid benefits. Sheehan was ordered to repay the ineligible benefits received.

Sheehan filed an untimely initial protest, and a hearing was scheduled before the Idaho Department of Labor (“IDOL”). Sheehan failed to appear at the hearing. Sheehan then filed an appeal to the Idaho Industrial Commission (“the Commission”), claiming he received misleading instructions concerning notice of the hearing from IDOL. Sheehan maintained that IDOL informed him that he would be notified of the hearing date by email, but the notice was sent to his former mailing address instead. The Commission dismissed Sheehan’s appeal as untimely. Sheehan then filed an untimely motion to reconsider, which was also denied. Sheehan next appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court. Because the appeal from the Commission’s original order of dismissal was untimely, the Court only considered Sheehan’s appeal of the denial of the motion to reconsider.

While the Court noted with concern the conflicting communications by IDOL, the Court also recognized that Sheehan persistently missed filing deadlines even when the communications were clear. Importantly, the Court determined that Sheehan’s late filing of the motion for reconsideration to the Commission had no connection to his alleged due process violation by IDOL. Thus, the Court concluded it was not an abuse of discretion for the Industrial Commission to deny Sheehan’s motion for reconsideration.

******This summary constitutes no part of the opinion of the Court, but has been prepared by court staff for the convenience of the public.******