

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Castell v. Money Metals Exchange

Docket No. 50846

This appeal stemmed from an Idaho Industrial Commission (“Commission”) decision that denied unemployment benefits to Nattalia Castell. Castell was discharged by her employer, Money Metals Exchange, L.L.C. (“Money Metals”), after she mishandled an Idaho Department of Labor (“IDOL”) notice sent to Money Metals concerning her boyfriend’s application for unemployment benefits. Castell subsequently applied for unemployment insurance benefits and, after her application was denied by an IDOL appeals examiner, Castell appealed to the Commission. The Commission affirmed the denial of her application for benefits, finding that Castell was ineligible because she was discharged for misconduct connected with her employment.

Castell then appealed to this Court, arguing that the appeals examiner and Commission erred on various grounds, including: (1) excluding her boyfriend from testifying during the evidentiary hearing, and (2) rejecting her request to reopen the evidentiary hearing so that she could read a statement she wrote in support of her application. Castell further argued that Money Metals failed to meet its burden of proof to establish that she was terminated for employment-related misconduct.

The Idaho Supreme Court affirmed the Commission’s decision. First, the Court concluded the appeals examiner did not err by excluding her boyfriend’s testimony because she conceded that the boyfriend did not have personal knowledge of the circumstances of her termination. The Court further determined that Castell’s claim—that she was not permitted to read the statement into the record—was meritless because the record showed that she was provided with the opportunity to make a final statement and did so. Lastly, the Court held that substantial and competent evidence supported the Commission’s conclusion that Castell was discharged for misconduct connected with her employment.

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