

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

**WCC NO. F309143**

**WILLIAM HOUSE, EMPLOYEE** **CLAIMANT**

**TDS ERECTORS & CRANE SERVICE,  
EMPLOYER** **RESPONDENT**

**COMMERCE & INDUSTRY INS. CO.  
C/O AIG CLAIMS SERVICE,  
INSURANCE CARRIER/TPA** **RESPONDENT**

**OPINION FILED FEBRUARY 27, 2008**

Hearing conducted before Administrative Law Judge S. Dale Douthit on February 5, 2008, in Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas.

The unrepresented claimant failed to appear.

The respondents were represented by Ms. Carol Lockard Worley, Attorney at Law, Little Rock, Arkansas.

**ISSUES**

A hearing was conducted to determine whether or not this claim should be dismissed for failure to prosecute pursuant to Dillard v. Benton County Sheriff's Office, 87 Ark. App. 379, 192 S.W.3d 287 (2004).

After review of the Commission's file, the full hearing, and a review of the hearing record, I find the motion should be granted.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

The claimant filed a request for a hearing for additional benefits on April 24, 2007. A prehearing telephone conference was set for August 8, 2007; however, prior to the prehearing conference beginning, the claimant advised that he did not wish to

**WILLIAM HOUSE - F309143**

proceed with a full hearing being set at that time and the claim was returned to the Commission's general files. (Comm. Ex. 1).

Respondent then filed a motion to dismiss for lack of prosecution on November 12, 2007, with a certificate of service to the claimant. (Comm. Ex. 2.) The claimant never responded to the motion to dismiss in writing. This administrative law judge sent the claimant a copy of respondents' motion to dismiss with a cover letter advising claimant to file a response within ten days. (Com. Ex. 3). Still, with no response from the claimant, a hearing was set for February 5, 2008, at 11:45 a.m. and a notice of said hearing was sent to the claimant by both certified and regular mail. (Com. Ex. 4). Said notices were returned as undeliverable at the address provided by the claimant. The claimant failed to notify the Commission of any change in his current mailing address and no forwarding address was noted by the postal service. The claimant failed to appear at the scheduled hearing.

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

A review of the evidence shows that claimant has had ample opportunity to pursue his case but he has failed to respond to written notices and failed to appear at the scheduled hearing.

There are two provisions for dismissal of claims:

**WILLIAM HOUSE - F309143**

A.C.A. § 11-9-702(a)(4):

If within six (6) months after the filing of a claim for compensation, no bona fide request for a hearing has been made with respect to the claim, the claim may, upon motion and after hearing, be dismissed without prejudice to the refiling of the claim within limitation periods specified in subdivisions (a)(1)-(3) of this section.

Rule 13:

The Commission may, in its discretion, postpone or recess hearings at the instance of either party or on its own motion. No case set for hearing shall be postponed except by approval of the Commission or Administrative Law Judge.

In the event neither party appears at the initial hearing, the case may be dismissed by the Commission or Administrative Law Judge, and such dismissal order will become final unless an appeal is timely taken therefrom or a proper motion to reopen is filed with the Commission within thirty (30) days from receipt of the order.

Upon meritorious application to the Commission from either party in an action pending before the Commission, requesting that the claim be dismissed for want of prosecution, the Commission may, upon reasonable notice to all parties, enter an order dismissing the claim for want of prosecution. (Effective March 1, 1982)

After review, I make the following findings of fact:

- 1) The Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission has jurisdiction of this claim.
- 2) The claimant has failed to prosecute his claim.
- 3) The claimant failed to appear at the initial hearing pursuant to Rule 13.

At the request of the respondents and after a full hearing, this case is hereby

**WILLIAM HOUSE - F309143**

dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute pursuant to A.C.A. § 11-9-702  
and Rule 99.13 of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

---

**S. DALE DOUTHIT**  
**Administrative Law Judge**

SDD/pjb