

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION  
CLAIM NO. H108519**

**VERONICA FRANKLIN,  
EMPLOYEE**

**CLAIMANT**

**SUPER 8 MOTEL,  
EMPLOYER**

**RESPONDENT**

**FIRSTCOMP INSURANCE CO./  
MARKEL SERVICE, INC.  
INSURANCE CARRIER/TPA**

**RESPONDENT**

**OPINION AND ORDER TO DISMISS WITHOUT PREJUDICE  
FILED APRIL 6, 2022**

Hearing conducted on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, before the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission (the Commission), Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Mike Pickens, in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

The claimant, Ms. Veronica Franklin, pro se, last known to be a resident of Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, failed and/or refused to appear at the hearing.

The respondents were represented by the Honorable Randy P. Murphy, Anderson, Murphy & Hopkins, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

**STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

A hearing was conducted on Wednesday, April 5, 2022, to determine whether this claim should be dismissed for lack of prosecution pursuant to *Ark. Code Ann.* § 11-9-702(a)(4) (2021 Lexis Replacement) and Commission Rule 099.13 (202 Lexis Replacement). On March 2, 2022, the respondents filed a motion to dismiss with the Commission, requesting this claim be dismissed without prejudice for lack of prosecution.

In accordance with applicable Arkansas law, the claimant was mailed due and legal notice of the respondents' motion to dismiss, as well as a copy of the hearing notice, via United States Postal Service (USPS) First Class Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, to her last known address of record with the Commission, which she multiple times beginning in early March, 2022. The

certified letters were returned to the Commission unclaimed. The claimant has never notified either the Commission or the respondents if in fact she has moved and has a new address. The claimant failed and/or refused to file any response to the respondents' motion to dismiss, either via email, USPS, or any other medium of communication. She also failed and/or refused to appear at the hearing, or to cause anyone to appear on her half.

The record herein consists of the hearing transcript and any and all exhibits contained therein and attached thereto, as well as the Commission's entire file in this matter.

### **DISCUSSION**

Consistent with *Ark. Code Ann.* § 11-9-702(a)(4), as well as our court of appeals' ruling in *Dillard vs. Benton County Sheriff's Office*, 87 Ark. App. 379, 192 S.W.3d 287 (Ark. App. 2004), the Commission scheduled and conducted a hearing on the respondents' motion to dismiss. Rather than recite a detailed analysis of the record, suffice it to say the preponderance of the evidence introduced at the hearing and contained in the record conclusively demonstrates the claimant has failed and/or refused to prosecute her claim.

Therefore, after a thorough consideration of the facts, issues, the applicable law, and other relevant matters of record, I hereby make the following:

### **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has jurisdiction of this claim.
2. The Commission mailed the claimant due and legal notice of both the respondents' motion to dismiss filed on March 2, 2022, and the hearing notice to the claimant's last known address filed of record with the Commission on multiple occasions. If the claimant has in fact moved to another address, she has failed and/or refused to notify either the Commission or the respondents of her new address. Moreover, the claimant failed and/or refused to either file a response to the respondents' motion to dismiss, to appear at the scheduled hearing, or to cause anyone to appear on her behalf. Therefore, the claimant is deemed to have waived her right to, and appearance at, the subject hearing.

3. The preponderance of the evidence of record reveals the claimant has to date failed and/or refused to prosecute her claim.
4. The respondents' motion to dismiss without prejudice filed with the Commission on March 2, 2022, is GRANTED; and this claim hereby is dismissed without prejudice to its refiling pursuant to the deadlines prescribed by *Ark. Code Ann.* § 11-9-702(a) and (b), and Commission Rule 099.13.

This opinion and order shall not be construed to prohibit the claimant, her attorney, any attorney she may retain in the future, or anyone else acting legally and on her behalf, from refiling the claim *if* it is refiled within the applicable time periods prescribed by *Ark. Code Ann.* § 11-9-702(a) and (b).

The respondents are hereby ordered to pay the court reporter's invoice within twenty (20) days of their receipt thereof.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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Mike Pickens  
Administrative Law Judge

MP/mp