

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION**

In the matter of:

Claimant/Appellant

R.A.A.C. Order No. 13-02241

vs.

Referee Decision No. 13-8688U

Employer/-None

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**ORDER OF REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION**

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This case comes before the Commission for disposition of the claimant's appeal pursuant to Section 443.151(4)(c), Florida Statutes, of a referee's decision wherein the claimant was held ineligible for benefits.

On appeal to the Commission, evidence was submitted which had not been previously presented to the referee. The parties were advised prior to the hearing that the hearing was their only opportunity to present all of their evidence in support of their case. Florida Administrative Code Rule 73B-22.005 provides that the Commission can consider newly discovered evidence only upon a showing that it is material to the outcome of the case *and* could not have been discovered prior to the hearing by an exercise of due diligence. The Commission did not consider the additional evidence because it does not meet the requirements of the rule.

Pursuant to the appeal filed in this case, the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission has conducted a complete review of the evidentiary hearing record and decision of the appeals referee. *See* §443.151(4)(c), Fla. Stat. By law, the Commission's review is limited to those matters that were presented to the referee and are contained in the official record.

The issue before the Commission is whether the claimant is able and available for work as provided in Section 443.091(1)(c), Florida Statutes.

Procedural error requires this case to be remanded for further proceedings; accordingly, the Commission does not now address the issue of whether the claimant is eligible/qualified for benefits.

The referee's findings of fact state as follows:

The claimant filed an application for benefits, effective December 30, 2012. The claimant is a Cuban citizen and, at the time he filed an application for benefits, he did not have a valid work authorization card. As of the date of this hearing, the claimant still [does] not have a valid work authorization card.

Based on these findings, the referee held the claimant ineligible for receipt of benefits from the week ending January 5, 2013, through February 23, 2013. Upon review of the record and the arguments on appeal, the Commission concludes the record was not sufficiently developed; consequently, the case must be remanded.

In order to be eligible for benefits, a claimant must be authorized to work in the United States. Fla. Admin. Code R. 73B-11.021(1). A review of the hearing record reveals the referee's sole inquiry was whether the claimant has a valid "work authorization card." We note, however, that an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) is not the sole means by which non-citizens may prove their authorization to work in the United States. Pursuant to the guidelines of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service of the Department of Homeland Security, employment eligibility in the United States may be verified by the production of "acceptable documents" as defined on the Agency's Form I-9. Recent versions of the Form I-9 specifically provides that individuals may establish their eligibility to work in the United States by producing for an employer both a "driver's license or ID card issued by a State or outlying possession of the United States provided it contains a photograph or information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address" and "Social Security Account Number card other than one that specifies on the face that the issuance of the card does not authorize employment in the United States."

The record reflects the claimant is Cuban, but no evidence was adduced regarding the year the claimant entered the United States or his immigration status. If the claimant entered the United States as a political asylee, the claimant would have been authorized to work immediately upon entry and would remain authorized to work incident to his status without expiration. Although some asylees choose to obtain Employment Authorization Documents for convenience, an EAD is not necessary to work in the United States. *See* U.S. Department of Justice

Memorandum from William Yates, Acting Associate Director in the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration on the Immigration and Naturalization Service, dated March 10, 2003. *See also* USCIS website last updated April 12, 2011. Accordingly, the question of whether a non-U.S. citizen has a valid EAD is not dispositive of whether he or she is authorized to work in the United States.

Since the record was not sufficiently developed to determine whether the claimant is authorized to work in the United States, the case must be remanded for further proceedings. On remand, the referee is directed to inquire regarding the claimant's immigration status and whether he possesses a driver license or other state-issued ID card and a Social Security card as described above. *If the claimant has documentation establishing his eligibility to work in the United States, it would be appropriate for him to provide copies to the appeals referee in accordance with the instructions on the hearing notice once a new hearing has been scheduled.*

The decision of the appeals referee is vacated and the case is remanded for further proceedings.

It is so ordered.

#### REEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE APPEALS COMMISSION

Thomas D. Epsky, Member  
Joseph D. Finnegan, Member

This is to certify that on  
4/15/2013,  
the above Order was filed in the office of  
the Clerk of the Reemployment  
Assistance Appeals Commission, and a  
copy mailed to the last known address  
of each interested party.  
By: Kady Thomas  
Deputy Clerk



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY  
Reemployment Assistance Appeals  
POST OFFICE BOX 8697  
FORT LAUDERDALE FL 33310

**IMPORTANT:** For free translation assistance, you may call 1-800-204-2418. Please do not delay, as there is a limited time to appeal.  
**IMPORTANTE:** Para recibir ayuda gratuita con traducciones, puede llamar al 1-800-204-2418. Por favor hágalo lo antes posible, ya que el tiempo para apelar es limitado.  
**ENPòTAN:** Pou yon intèpret asisté ou gratis, nou gendwa rélé 1-800-204-2418. Sil vou plè pa pràn àmpil tòn, paské tòn limité pou ou ranpli apèl la.

Docket No. 2013-8688U

Jurisdiction: §443.151(4)(a)&(b) Florida Statutes

**CLAIMANT/Appellant**

APPEARANCES: CLAIMANT

LOCAL OFFICE #: 3631-0

**DECISION OF APPEALS REFEREE**

**Important appeal rights are explained at the end of this decision.**

**Derechos de apelación importantes son explicados al final de esta decisión.**

**Yo eksplike kèk dwa dapèl enpòtan lan fen desizyon sa a.**

**Issues Involved:**

ABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR WORK: Whether the claimant has been able and available for work, pursuant to Sections 443.036(1), 443.036(6); 443.091(1)(d), Florida Statutes; Rule 73B-11.021, Florida Administrative Code.

**Findings of Fact:** The claimant filed an application for benefits, effective December 30, 2012. The claimant is a Cuban citizen and at the time he filed an application for benefits, he did not have a valid work authorization card. As of the date of this hearing, the claimant still goes not have a valid work authorization card.

**Conclusions of Law:** Department regulations provide that, to be considered able to work and available for work, a claimant must be authorized to work in the United States.

The record reflects that the claimant is a Cuban citizen and that did not have a valid work authorization card for the weeks ending January 5, 2013 to February 23, 2013. Accordingly, it is held the claimant was not able

and available for work for the weeks ending January 5, 2013 to February 23, 2013.

**Decision:** The determination dated January 24, 2013, is **MODIFIED** to reflect for the weeks ending January 5, 2013 to February 23, 2013, the claimant was ineligible for benefits. The claims adjudicator shall determine eligibility for any weeks claimed after February 23, 2013.

If this decision disqualifies and/or holds the claimant ineligible for benefits already received, the claimant will be required to repay those benefits. The specific amount of any overpayment will be calculated by the department and set forth in a separate overpayment determination, unless specified in this decision. However, the time to request review of this decision is as shown above and is not stopped, delayed or extended by any other determination, decision or order.

This is to certify that a copy of the above decision was mailed to the last known address of each interested party on February 28, 2013.

**SAMANTHA  
STEEN**  
Appeals Referee

By:   
M. DURAN, Deputy Clerk

**IMPORTANT - APPEAL RIGHTS:** This decision will become final unless a written request for review or reopening is filed within 20 calendar days after the mailing date shown. If the 20<sup>th</sup> day is a Saturday, Sunday or

holiday defined in F.A.C. 73B-21.004, filing may be made on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday. If this decision disqualifies and/or holds the claimant ineligible for benefits already received, the claimant will be required to repay those benefits. The specific amount of any overpayment will be calculated by the Department and set forth in a separate overpayment determination. However, the time to request review of this decision is as shown above and is not stopped, delayed or extended by any other determination, decision or order.

**A party who did not attend the hearing for good cause may request reopening, including the reason for not attending, at [www.fluidnow.com/appeals](http://www.fluidnow.com/appeals) or by writing to the address at the top of this decision. The date the confirmation number is generated will be the filing date of a request for reopening on the Appeals Web Site.**

A party who attended the hearing and received an adverse decision may file a request for review to the Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, Suite 101 Rhyne Building, 2740 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4151; (Fax: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. If mailed, the postmark date will be the filing date. If faxed, hand-delivered, delivered by courier service other than the United States Postal Service, or submitted via the Internet, the date of receipt will be the filing date. To avoid delay, include the docket number and claimant's social security number. A party requesting review should specify any and all allegations of error with respect to the referee's decision, and provide factual and/or legal support for these challenges. Allegations of error not specifically set forth in the request for review may be considered waived.

**IMPORTANTE - DERECHOS DE APELACIÓN:** Esta decisión pasará a ser final a menos que una solicitud por escrito para revisión o reapertura se registre dentro de 20 días de calendario después de la fecha marcada en que la decisión fue remitida por correo. Si el vigésimo (20) día es un sábado, un domingo o un feriado definidos en F.A.C. 73B-21.004, el registro de la solicitud se puede realizar en el día siguiente que no sea un sábado, un domingo o un feriado. Si esta decisión descalifica y/o declara al reclamante como inelegible para recibir beneficios que ya fueron recibidos por el reclamante, se le requerirá al reclamante rembolsar esos beneficios. La cantidad específica de cualquier sobrepago [*pago excesivo de beneficios*] será calculada por la Agencia y establecida en una determinación de pago excesivo de beneficios que será emitida por separado. Sin embargo, el límite de tiempo para solicitar la revisión de esta decisión es como se establece anteriormente y dicho límite no es detenido, demorado o extendido por ninguna otra determinación, decisión u orden.

Una parte que no asistió a la audiencia por una buena causa puede solicitar una reapertura, incluyendo la razón por no haber comparecido en la audiencia, en [www.fluidnow.com/appeals](http://www.fluidnow.com/appeals) o escribiendo a la dirección en la parte superior de esta decisión. La fecha en que se genera el número de confirmación será la fecha de registro de una solicitud de reapertura realizada en el Sitio Web de la Oficina de Apelaciones.

Una parte que asistió a la audiencia y recibió una decisión adversa puede registrar una solicitud de revisión con la Comisión de Apelaciones de Servicios de Reempleo; Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, Suite 101 Rhyne Building, 2740 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4151; (Fax: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. Si la solicitud es enviada por correo, la fecha del sello de la oficina de correos será la fecha de registro de la solicitud. Si es enviada por telefax, entregada a mano, entregada por servicio de mensajería, con la excepción del Servicio Postal de Estados Unidos, o realizada vía el Internet, la fecha en la que se recibe la solicitud será la fecha de registro. Para evitar demora, incluya el número de expediente [*docket number*] y el número de seguro social del reclamante. Una parte que solicita una revisión debe especificar

cualquiera y todos los alegatos de error con respecto a la decisión del árbitro, y proporcionar fundamentos reales y/o legales para substanciar éstos desafíos. Los alegatos de error que no se establezcan con especificidad en la solicitud de revisión pueden considerarse como renunciados.

**ENPÒTAN – DWA DAPÈL:** Desizyon sa a ap definitiv sòf si ou depoze yon apèl nan yon delè 20 jou apre dat nou poste sa a ba ou. Si 20<sup>yèm</sup> jou a se yon samdi, yon dimanch oswa yon jou konje, jan sa defini lan F.A.C. 73B-21.004, depo an kapab fèt jou aprè a, si se pa yon samdi, yon dimanch oswa yon jou konje. Si desizyon an diskalifye epi/oswa deklare moun k ap fè demann lan pa kalifye pou alokasyon li resevwa deja, moun k ap fè demann lan ap gen pou li remèt lajan li te resevwa a. Se Ajans lan k ap kalkile montan nenpòt ki peman anplis epi y ap detèmine sa lan yon desizyon separe. Sepandan, delè pou mande revizyon desizyon sa a se delè yo bay anwo a; Okenn lòt detèminasyon, desizyon oswa lòd pa ka rete, retade oubyen pwolonje dat sa a.

Yon pati ki te gen yon rezon valab pou li pat asiste seyans lan gen dwa mande pou yo ouvri ka a ankò; fòk yo bay rezon yo pat ka vini an epi fè demann nan sou sitwèb sa a, [www.fluidnow.com/appeals](http://www.fluidnow.com/appeals) oswa alekri nan adrès ki mansyone okomansman desizyon sa a. Dat yo pwodui nimewo konfimasyon an se va dat yo prezante demann nan pou reouvri kòz la sou Sitwèb Apèl la.

Yon pati ki te asiste odyans la epi li resevwa yon desizyon negatif kapab soumèt yon demann pou revizyon retounen travay Asistans Komisyon Apèl la, Suite 101 Rhyne Building, 2740 Centerview Drive, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4151; (Faks: 850-488-2123); <https://raaciap.floridajobs.org>. Si poste a, dat tenm ap dat li ranpli aplikasyon. Si fakse, men yo-a delivre, lage pa sèvis mesaje lòt pase Etazini Sèvis nan Etazini Nimewo, oswa soumèt sou Entènèt la, dat yo te resevwa ap dat li ranpli aplikasyon. Pou evite reta, mete nimewo rejis la ak nimewo sosyal demandè a sekirite. Yon pati pou mande revizyon ta dwe presize nenpòt ak tout akizasyon nan erè ki gen rapò ak desizyon abit la, yo epi bay sipò reyèl ak / oswa legal pou defi sa yo. Alegasyon sou erè pa espesyalman tabli nan demann nan pou revizyon yo kapab konsidere yo egzante.

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Any questions related to benefits or claim certifications should be referred to the Claims Information Center at 1-800-204-2418. An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

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