

**BEFORE THE ARKANSAS WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
CLAIM NO.: G907994**

BETTY J. HARDISTER, Employee	CLAIMANT
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES, Self-Insured Employer	RESPONDENT
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE CLAIMS DIVISION, Carrier/TPA	RESPONDENT

OPINION AND ORDER FILED OCTOBER 19, 2021

Hearing conducted before ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE TERRY DON LUCY, in Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Counsel for the Claimant: *pro se*.

Counsel for the Respondents: Honorable CHARLES H. MCLEMORE; Attorney at Law, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The above-captioned matter came on for a hearing on October 6, 2021, with respect to the Respondents' Motion to Dismiss filed with the Commission on August 23, 2021. The Claimant appeared for the hearing in person, *pro se*, and the Respondents appeared through their Counsel. During the hearing, Respondents' Exhibit No. 1 was introduced into the record without objection, as was the Commission's file. (TR 5-6)

Also during the hearing, and in essence, the Claimant ultimately testified that she objected to the Respondents' Motion to Dismiss and desired to request a hearing on the merits of the remaining issues in her claim. (TR 6-17) Accordingly, the Respondents' Motion to Dismiss was respectfully denied from the bench. (TR 17)

Based on the foregoing discussion and the record herein, the Respondents' Motion to Dismiss is respectfully denied. In order to allow the Claimant sufficient time to either request a hearing on the merits of the remaining issues in her claim and/or to obtain new counsel, this matter will be returned to the Commission's open general files. No further action will be taken

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unless the Clerk of the Commission is advised, in writing, of an additional hearing request.

The Respondents are ordered and directed to pay the court reporter's fee within thirty days of billing for such pursuant to Rule 099.20 of the Arkansas Workers' Compensation Commission.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

TERRY DON LUCY
Administrative Law Judge