

APPEAL NO. 032503
FILED NOVEMBER 5, 2003

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on August 21, 2003. The hearing officer decided that the appellant (claimant herein) was not entitled to supplemental income benefits (SIBs) for the fourth quarter because the claimant failed during the qualifying period, to make a good faith effort to obtain employment commensurate with his ability to work. The claimant appeals and argues that the hearing officer's decision is contrary to the evidence. The respondent (carrier herein) replies that the decision of the hearing officer should be affirmed.

DECISION

Finding sufficient evidence to support the decision of the hearing officer and no reversible error in the record, we affirm the decision and order of the hearing officer.

Section 408.142(a)(4) states that one requirement for SIBs eligibility is that the claimant attempt in good faith to obtain employment commensurate with his ability to work. Whether a claimant satisfied the good faith requirement for SIBs entitlement is a factual question for the hearing officer to resolve. Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Appeal No. 94150, decided March 22, 1994. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the relevance, materiality, weight, and credibility of the evidence presented at the hearing. Section 410.165(a). As an appellate tribunal, the Appeals Panel will not disturb the challenged factual findings of a hearing officer unless they are so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175, 176 (Tex. 1986); In re King's Estate, 150 Tex. 662, 244 S.W.2d 660 (1951). The evidence was conflicting and applying the standard of review stated above, we find no legal basis to overturn the decision of the hearing officer.

The decision and order of the hearing officer are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **OLD REPUBLIC INSURANCE COMPANY** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
701 BRAZOS STREET, SUITE 1050
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.**

Gary L. Kilgore
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Margaret L. Turner
Appeals Judge

Edward Vilano
Appeals Judge