

BEFORE THE IOWA WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSIONER

STEPHANIE MARTINSON,

Claimant,

vs.

THE LAW OFFICES OF TIMOTHY L.
LAPOINTE,

Employer,

and

AUTO-OWNERS INS. CO.,

Insurance Carrier,
Defendants.

File No. 20700217.01

A P P E A L

D E C I S I O N

: Headnotes: 1108.20; 1402.20; 1402.30;
: 1402.40, 1801; 1803; 2204;
: 2907; 5-9998

Claimant Stephanie Martinson appeals from an arbitration decision filed on February 7, 2022. Defendants The Law Offices of Timothy L. LaPointe, employer, and its insurer, Auto Owners Ins. Co., cross-appeal. The case was heard on May 25, 2021, and it was considered fully submitted in front of the deputy workers' compensation commissioner on January 10, 2022.

In the arbitration decision, the deputy commissioner found claimant failed to carry her burden of proof to establish she sustained a work-related injury on or about March 12, 2018, or on or about January 9, 2019, as alleged. The deputy commissioner found claimant failed to prove both medical causation and legal causation for her alleged mental-mental injury claim. Because the deputy commissioner found against claimant on the issues of causation and compensability, the deputy commissioner found all other issues raised in this matter are moot.

Claimant asserts on appeal that the deputy commissioner erred in finding claimant failed to prove she sustained a work-related injury as alleged. Claimant asserts the deputy commissioner erred in finding claimant failed to prove both medical causation and legal causation for her alleged mental-mental injury claim. Claimant asserts the deputy commissioner erred in finding all other issues raised in this matter are moot.

Defendants assert on cross-appeal that the arbitration decision should be affirmed in its entirety.

Those portions of the proposed arbitration decision pertaining to issues not raised on appeal are adopted as a part of this appeal decision.

I have performed a de novo review of the evidentiary record and the detailed arguments of the parties, and I reach the same analysis, findings, and conclusions as those reached by the deputy commissioner.

Pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.5 and 86.24, I affirm and adopt as the final agency decision those portions of the proposed arbitration decision filed on February 7, 2022, which relate to the issues properly raised on intra-agency appeal.

I find the deputy commissioner provided a well-reasoned analysis of all the issues raised in the arbitration proceeding. I affirm the deputy commissioner's findings of fact and conclusions of law pertaining to those issues.

I affirm the deputy commissioner's finding that claimant failed to prove she sustained a work-related injury on or about March 12, 2018, or on or about January 9, 2019, as alleged. I affirm the deputy commissioner's finding that claimant failed to prove both medical causation and legal causation for her alleged mental-mental injury claim. Because I affirm the deputy commissioner's findings against claimant on the issues of causation and compensability, I also affirm the deputy commissioner's finding that all other issues raised in this matter are moot.

I affirm the deputy commissioner's findings, conclusions and analysis regarding the above-stated issues.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the arbitration decision filed on February 7, 2022, is affirmed in its entirety.

Claimant shall take nothing from these proceedings.

Pursuant to rule 876 IAC 4.33, claimant shall pay the costs of the appeal, including the cost of the hearing transcript.

Pursuant to rule 876 IAC 3.1(2), defendants shall file subsequent reports of injury as required by this agency.

Signed and filed on this 9th day of June, 2022.



JOSEPH S. CORTESE II
WORKERS' COMPENSATION
COMMISSIONER

The parties have been served as follows:

Matthew Sahag (via WCES)

Matthew Phillips (via WCES)

David Scieszinski (via WCES)