

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS

CELESTE SCHROEDER-SUAREZ,

EEOC Case No. 15D201600368

Petitioner,

FCHR Case No. 2016-00690

v.

DOAH Case No. 17-0023

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES,

FCHR Order No. 17-044

Respondent.

---

**FINAL ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR  
RELIEF FROM AN UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICE**

This matter is before the Commission for consideration of the Order Closing File and Relinquishing Jurisdiction, dated April 4, 2017, issued in the above-styled matter by Administrative Law Judge Linzie F. Bogan.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

Judge Bogan's order reflects that Petitioner failed to comply with an order of the Administrative Law Judge. Specifically, by an order entered on February 13, 2017, this matter was placed in abeyance until March 15, 2017, so as to allow Petitioner time to secure the services of an attorney. On March 17, 2017, Judge Bogan reviewed the matter's case docket, noting the absence of an appearance of counsel for Petitioner, and issued an Order to Show Cause, directing Petitioner to show on or before March 30, 2017, why jurisdiction of the matter should not be relinquished to the Commission.

Petitioner did not respond to the Order to Show Cause.

We note that, generally, Commission panels have concluded that a Petitioner's failure to respond to orders of an Administrative Law Judge amounts to a voluntary dismissal of the Petition for Relief. See, Norris v. Florida Gulf Coast University, FCHR Order No. 17-006 (January 19, 2017) and Watkins v. Michaels Arts and Crafts, FCHR Order No. 15-063 (October 14, 2015). See, also, generally, Noel v. C and S Wholesale Services, Inc., FCHR Order No. 15-044 (July 31, 2015), Morgan v. Skin Cancer Associates, FCHR Order No. 15-035 (June 10, 2015), Herard v. MasTec, Inc., FCHR Order No. 13-034 (May 1, 2013), Cawley v. Primrose Center, Inc., FCHR Order No. 12-009 (February 21, 2012), Roundtree, et al. v. Advenir at Stonelake, LLC, FCHR Order No. 11-069 (August 30, 2011), Biggers v. Rooms To Go, FCHR Order No. 09-045 (May 12, 2009), Shook v. Riverside National Bank, FCHR Order No. 08-029 (May 6, 2008), Clifton v. Kryz, et al., FCHR Order No. 07-062 (November 7, 2007), Bordonaro v. The Green at the Heather Condominium Association, Inc., FCHR Order No. 07-010 (February

14, 2007), Butler v. The Pepsi Bottling Group, FCHR Order No. 06-107 (December 4, 2006), Castellanos v. Express Net Airlines Pilots Association, FCHR Order No. 05-061 (June 15, 2005), Mayfield v. Karl's Haberdashery of Florida, Inc., FCHR Order No. 04-020 (March 10, 2004), and Kenny v. Florida Department of Corrections, FCHR Order No. 02-020 (June 3, 2002).

Based on the foregoing, we conclude that the Petition for Relief should be dismissed.

Exceptions

Neither of the parties filed exceptions to the Administrative Law Judge's Order Closing File and Relinquishing Jurisdiction.

Dismissal

The Petition for Relief and Complaint of Discrimination are DISMISSED with prejudice.

The parties have the right to seek judicial review of this Order. The Commission and the appropriate District Court of Appeal must receive notice of appeal within 30 days of the date this Order is filed with the Clerk of the Commission. Explanation of the right to appeal is found in Section 120.68, Florida Statutes, and in the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110.

DONE AND ORDERED this 15 day of June, 2017.  
FOR THE FLORIDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN RELATIONS:

Commissioner Rebecca Steele, Panel Chairperson;  
Commissioner Derick Daniel; and  
Commissioner Sandra Turner

Filed this 15 day of June, 2017,  
in Tallahassee, Florida.

Jimmy Barton

Clerk  
Commission on Human Relations  
4075 Esplanade Way, Room 110  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(850) 488-7082

Copies furnished to:

Celeste Schroeder-Suarez  
219 Amherst Avenue  
Sarasota, FL 34232

State of Florida Department of  
Children and Families  
c/o Glen A. Bassett, Esq.  
c/o Brian J. Staley, Esq.  
Office of the Attorney General  
The Capitol, Plaza Level 01  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1050

Linzie F. Bogan, Administrative Law Judge, DOAH

James Mallue, Legal Advisor for Commission Panel

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been mailed to the above listed addressees this 15 day of June, 2017.

By: Jimmy Barton  
Clerk of the Commission  
Florida Commission on Human Relations