

SUPREME COURT OF OKLAHOMA

Maddox v. Sooner Completions, Inc.

Maddox, 2015 OK 63 (Okla. 2015) · No. 114189 · Decided October 12, 2015

SUMMARY

The Oklahoma Supreme Court dismissed a claimant's direct review proceeding from a Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judge's order. The court held that, under the applicable Workers' Compensation Act, the claimant was required to appeal first to the Workers' Compensation Commission before seeking review in the Supreme Court.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

OSCN Found Document:MADDOX v. SOONER COMPLETIONS, INC. OSCN navigation Home Courts Court Dockets Legal Research Calendar Help Previous Case Top Of Index This Point in Index Citationize Next Case Print Only MADDOX v. SOONER COMPLETIONS, INC.2015 OK 63Case Number: 114189Decided: 10/12/2015THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA Cite as: 2015 OK 63, ___ P.3d ___ NOTICE: THIS OPINION HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION.

UNTIL RELEASED, IT IS SUBJECT TO REVISION OR WITHDRAWAL. BRADLEY NEAL MADDOX, Petitioner, v. SOONER COMPLETIONS, INC., BITCO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY (fka BITUMINOUS CASUALTY COMPANY) and THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION, Respondents. ORDER The claimant commenced a proceeding at the Workers' Compensation Commission (Commission), alleging an injury which occurred in August, 2014.

The Workers' Compensation Act (Act) was effective on February 1, 2014. 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §3. On July 22, 2015, the Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) filed an order denying compensability and dismissing the claim.

The claimant did not appeal to the Commission. Instead, the claimant filed his review proceeding in this Court on August 10, 2015, which was commenced within 20 days after a copy of the ALJ's order was sent to the parties.

The employer filed a motion to dismiss, alleging that pursuant to 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §78,1 the claimant was first required to appeal to the Commission, and that a direct appeal cannot be brought to the Supreme Court from an order of the ALJ.

The employer argued that because the claimant's appeal is untimely, this appeal should be dismissed. The law in effect at the time of injury applies. *Williams Companies, Inc. v. Dunkelgod*, 2012 OK 96, ¶ 32, 295 P.3d 1107.

The Act became effective on February 1, 2014, before claimant's injury allegedly occurred in August, 2014. Therefore, the current Act is applicable, and the claimant must follow the procedure set forth in 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §78.2 This Court lacks jurisdiction to consider a direct appeal from a ruling by the ALJ. This cause must be dismissed pursuant to 85A Supp. 2013 §78 because petitioner failed timely to appeal the decision of the ALJ to the Workers' Compensation Commission before seeking relief in this Court.

Respondents' motion to dismiss is granted pursuant to 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §78. DONE BY ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT IN CONFERENCE THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2015. /S/CHIEF JUSTICE ALL JUSTICES CONCUR. FOOTNOTES 1 Title 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §78 provides in pertinent part: A. Any party feeling aggrieved by the judgment, decision, or award made by the administrative law judge may, within ten (10) days of issuance, appeal to the Workers' Compensation Commission.

After hearing arguments, the Commission may reverse or modify the decision only if it determines that the decision was against the clear weight of the evidence or contrary to law. All such proceedings of the Commission shall be recorded by a court reporter, if requested by any party. Any judgment of the Commission which reverses a decision of the administrative law judge shall contain specific findings relating to the reversal....

C. The judgment, decision or award of the Commission shall be final and conclusive on all questions within its jurisdiction between the parties unless an action is commenced in the Supreme Court of this state to review the judgment, decision or award within twenty (20) days of being sent to the parties. Any judgment, decision or award made by an administrative law judge shall be stayed until all appeal rights have been waived or exhausted....

2 Title 85A O.S. Supp. 2013 §78, see note 1, supra. Citationizer© Summary of Documents Citing This Document Cite Name Level None Found. Citationizer: Table of Authority Cite Name Level Oklahoma Supreme Court Cases CiteNameLevel 2012 OK 96, 295 P.3d 1107, WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC. v. DUNKELGODDiscussed Title 85A. Workers' Compensation CiteNameLevel 85A O.S. 3, Applicability of ActCited 85A O.S.

78, Workers' Compensation Commission - Appeal to Commission - Appeal to Supreme CourtDiscussed at Length