

Eligibility for Benefits

Copeland v. Okla. Emp't Sec. Comm'n, 1946 OK 138, 172 P.2d 420

History: Claimant was denied benefits. Appeal Tribunal and Board of Review affirmed. District Court affirmed. Claimant appealed to Oklahoma Supreme Court. The Oklahoma Supreme Court affirmed.

Facts:

1. Claimant did not have transportation and had never driven a car.
2. Claimant lived in Meeker, OK, a small town. No work was available in Meeker.
3. Claimant was offered suitable work in Norman, OK, with paid transportation from Shawnee, OK.
4. Claimant refused the offer of work because he did not have transportation, and he was unwilling or unable to move closer to the work location.

Holding: "Eligibility for receipt of benefits bears no relation to the needs of the claimant or the degree of calamity which he has suffered. The financial circumstances surrounding the unemployed worker are not mentioned as factors, however unfortunate or unfavorable they may be....[T]he burden is cast upon the [claimant] to provide himself with such transportation. When he has this burden and is unable to provide himself with such transportation, even through no fault of his own, he is not available for work....[W]here the claimant has definitely stated that he could not accept work because of his lack of transportation, he does not meet the requirements of the law."