

**IN THE COURT OF APPEALS
FIRST APPELLATE DISTRICT OF OHIO
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO**

KAREEM BONNER,	:	APPEAL NO. C-150235
		TRIAL NO. A-1500647
Plaintiff-Appellant,	:	
vs.	:	<i>JUDGMENT ENTRY.</i>
TWC ADMINISTRATION, LLC,	:	
Defendant-Appellee.	:	

We consider this appeal on the accelerated calendar, and this judgment entry is not an opinion of the court. *See S.Ct.R.Rep.Op. 2; App.R. 11.1(E); 1st Dist. Loc.R. 11.1.1.*

Kareem Bonner, pro se, appeals the judgment of the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas dismissing for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction his R.C. 4141.282 appeal from a decision of the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission.

Bonner raises two assignments of error that we recast and address as one: the trial court erred by dismissing his appeal for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction where he was misinformed as to the requirement that he name the director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (“JFS”) in his notice of appeal. We find no merit to his contention.

R.C. 4141.282(D) provides that a party appealing a final decision of the Unemployment Compensation Review Commission to the court of common pleas must name all interested parties as appellees in the notice of appeal, and that the “director of job and family services” is always an interested party to be named. The statute further

provides that “[t]he commission shall provide on its final decision the name * * * of all interested parties.”

Despite Bonner’s contrary argument, the record reflects that Bonner was specifically informed by language included in the appealed decision that the director of JFS was an interested party and that he was required to name the director as a party in his notice of appeal.

Ultimately, Bonner failed to name the director of JFS in the notice of appeal. This court has previously held that the court of common pleas lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over an appeal of an Unemployment Compensation Review Commission decision where the appellant fails to name an interested party in the notice of appeal, including the director of JFS, as required by R.C. 4141.282(D). *Dikong v. Ohio Supports, Inc.*, 2013-Ohio-33, 985 N.E.2d 949 (1st Dist.); *contra Pryor v. Dir., Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Servs.*, 9th Dist. Summit No. 27225, 2015-Ohio-1255, *discretionary appeal allowed*, 143 Ohio St.3d 1416, 2015-Ohio-2911, 34 N.E.3d 930, *certified conflict accepted*, 143 Ohio St.3d 1415, 2015-Ohio-2911, 34 N.E.3d 928 (“When appealing an unemployment compensation decision to the trial court, are the requirements contained in R.C. 4141.282(D), which explains how to name the parties, mandatory requirements necessary to perfect the appeal and vest the trial court with jurisdiction?”).

Although Bonner represented himself in the proceedings below, pro se civil litigants are not entitled to special treatment, and “are bound by the same rules and procedures as those litigants who retain counsel.” *Meyers v. First Natl. Bank of Cincinnati*, 3 Ohio App.3d 209, 210, 444 N.E.2d 412 (1st Dist.1981).

Because Bonner did not name the director of JFS in his notice of appeal, the trial court lacked subject-matter jurisdiction. Accordingly, we overrule the assignments of

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error and affirm the trial court's judgment dismissing the appeal of the commission's decision.

Further, a certified copy of this judgment entry shall be sent to the trial court under App.R. 27. Costs shall be taxed under App.R. 24.

HENDON, P.J., CUNNINGHAM and DEWINE, JJ.

To the clerk:

Enter upon the journal of the court on March 4, 2016
per order of the court _____.
Presiding Judge