

BEFORE THE  
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED  
SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015040382

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND  
DUE PROCESS HEARING DATES

On July 28, 2015, the parties filed a joint request with the Office of Administrative Hearings to continue the hearing dates after the bifurcated in this matter based upon the unavailability of legal counsel for the parties. OAH unilaterally set the dates for hearing when it granted Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's motion to bifurcate.

A due process hearing must be conducted and a decision rendered within 45 days of receipt of the due process notice unless an extension is granted for good cause. (34 C.F.R. § 300.515(a) & (c) (2006); Ed. Code, §§ 56502, subd. (f), 56505, subd. (f)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1020.) As a result, continuances are disfavored. Good cause may include the unavailability of a party, counsel, or an essential witness due to death, illness or other excusable circumstances; substitution of an attorney when the substitution is required in the interests of justice; a party's excused inability to obtain essential testimony or other material evidence despite diligent efforts; or another significant, unanticipated change in the status of the case as a result of which the case is not ready for hearing. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(c).) OAH considers all relevant facts and circumstances, including the proximity of the hearing date; previous continuances or delays; the length of continuance requested; the availability of other means to address the problem giving rise to the request; prejudice to a party or witness as a result of a continuance; the impact of granting a continuance on other pending hearings; whether trial counsel is engaged in another trial; whether the parties have stipulated to a continuance; whether the interests of justice are served by the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (See Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.1332(d).)

OAH has reviewed the request for good cause and considered all relevant facts and circumstances. The request is:

Granted. All dates are vacated. The parties established good cause for a continuance as to the unilaterally set hearing dates. Therefore, this matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference: October 16, 2015, at 1:00 PM  
Due Process Hearing: October 28, 2015, at 9:30 AM, October 29, 2015,  
9:00 AM, and continuing day to day, Monday  
through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the  
Administrative Law Judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: July 28, 2015

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PETER PAUL CASTILLO  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Administrative Hearings