

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2016030924

ORDER GRANTING JOINT REQUEST
FOR CONTINUANCE, SETTING
MEDIATION, PREHEARING
CONFERENCE, AND HEARING

On April 8, 2016, the parties filed a joint request to continue the hearing. This is the parties' first continuance request since the complaint's filing on March 15, 2016.

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 continuance and considered all relevant facts and circumstances, including the parties' collaboration in agreeing upon continued dates. Good cause existing therefore, the request is granted.

All dates are vacated. This matter is set as follows:

Mediation: April 26, 2016 at 9:30 AM, at District offices,
4034 Irving Place, Culver City, CA 90232.

Prehearing Conference: May 27, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

The parties requested a prehearing conference for June 3, 2016; however, the PHC should be a week or more before the hearing.

Due Process Hearing: June 7, 8 and 9, 2016, at 9:30 AM the first day, and 9:00 AM each hearing day thereafter, continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. The hearing shall take place at District offices, 4034 Irving Place, Culver City, CA 90232.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing “good cause” to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: April 11, 2016

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CLIFFORD H. WOOSLEY
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings