

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT AND SACRAMENTO
COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH.

OAH CASE NO. 2011060474

ORDER GRANTING PEREMPTORY
CHALLENGE

On August 15, 2011, Cathy S. Holmes, attorney for the Elk Grove Unified School District (District), filed a peremptory challenge seeking to disqualify Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Peter Paul Castillo from hearing this case. District's peremptory challenge is made pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034, subdivision (c).

Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), establishes the criteria for disqualification of the presiding officer. A party is entitled to one peremptory challenge (disqualification without cause) to an ALJ assigned to an Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subs. (a) & (b); Gov. Code, § 11425.40, subd. (d).) In no event will a peremptory challenge be allowed if it is made after the hearing has commenced. In addition, if at the time of a scheduled prehearing conference, an ALJ has been assigned to the hearing, any challenge to the assigned ALJ shall be made no later than commencement of that prehearing conference. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (c).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed on reconsideration or remand, and cannot be made after a hearing has begun. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (a).)

District's peremptory challenge is timely made and is granted pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034, subdivision (c). The matter has been reassigned to ALJ Charles Marson and the prehearing conference is now set for 1:00 p.m. on August 15, 2011.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: August 15, 2011

/s/

BOB VARMA
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings