

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. 2012100258

ORDER GRANTING SECOND
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE AND
SETTING PHC/HRG

On November 28, 2012, the parties filed a second stipulated request for a continuance on the ground that as part of settlement negotiations, Student would be assessed by an independent assessor who was not available until January of 2013.

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. Further continuances are not anticipated. This matter will be set as follows:

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| Mediation: | N/A |
| Prehearing Conference: | March 6, 2013 at 10:00 AM |
| Due Process Hearing: | March 18-21, 2013 at 1:30 PM first day, 9:30 AM other days, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. |

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: November 29, 2012

/s/

RICHARD T. BREEN
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings