

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

KERN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NO. 2014031002

ORDER DENYING STUDENT'S
REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE

On May 6, 2014, Student's Mother requested a second continuance on the ground she had contacted one attorney, who was too busy to represent Student and thus, was requesting more time to find an attorney. District opposed the request on the ground that Mother already had been given adequate time to find an attorney.

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:

Denied. All prehearing conference and hearing dates are confirmed and shall proceed as calendared. Student's Mother has not shown good cause for any further continuances. This matter was filed on March 27, 2014. The proceedings have already been delayed, both because Mother did not attend a prehearing conference and to give Mother time to attempt to find an attorney. Student's Mother has had adequate to time to either find an attorney or prepare for hearing, such that there is not good cause for a further continuance.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: May 07, 2014

/s/

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