

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

TORRANCE UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH Case No. 2015030082

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

On July 9, 2015, the parties filed a third joint request with the Office of Administrative Hearings to continue the due process hearing and prehearing conference to agreed dates. The parties request a third continuance because Parent needs time to find an advocate to assist her after her prior advocate withdrew on June 26, 2015, and the death of her brother. The parties also request an agreed upon date for mediation. Three previously scheduled mediations were cancelled first by one side or the other.

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 granted. All dates are vacated. **NO FURTHER CONTINUANCES SHALL BE GRANTED.** This matter will be set as follows:

Mediation:

October 1, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

Prehearing Conference: October 19, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.
Due Process Hearing: November 3, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., November 4 and 5, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. This matter is assigned to Administrative Law Judge Adrienne Krikorian.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: July 9, 2015

/s/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings