

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

OXNARD UNION HIGH SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NO. 2012110054

ORDER DENYING JOINT REQUEST
FOR CONTINUANCE

On December 10, 2012, the parties filed a first joint request to continue the mediation in this matter from December 11, 2012 to February 12, 2013, to continue the prehearing conference (PHC) from December 17, 2012 to April 8, 2013, and to continue the hearing in this matter from December 27, 2012 to April 15-19, 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:

Denied. All prehearing conference and hearing dates are confirmed and shall proceed as calendared. Here, the parties request a continuance of the hearing in excess of 90 days, without any explanation for such an extended delay. No good cause for a continuance, particularly of such an extraordinary length, is shown.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: December 11, 2012

/s/

ALEXA J. HOHENSEE
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings