

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

HUNTINGTON BEACH UNION HIGH
SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH Case No. 2015100189

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

On February 5, 2016, District filed a request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings, based upon the medical condition of District's key witness and representative. According to the declaration of District's counsel, Parents do not oppose a short continuance.

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. District's representative and key witness was placed on medical leave on February 3, 2016 and is unable to participate in the due process hearing or testify at hearing until he returns to work later in February 2016. By way of declaration, District's counsel represents that Parents do not oppose a short continuance.

Accordingly, there is good cause for a short continuance of this matter. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference: February 22, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. (to be conducted telephonically and OAH will initiate the call to the parties)

Due Process Hearing: March 1 and 2, 2016 and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge.

The parties shall immediately notify all potential witnesses of the hearing dates, and shall subpoena witnesses if necessary, to ensure that the witnesses will be available to testify. A witness will not be regarded as unavailable for purposes of showing "good cause" to continue the hearing if the witness is not properly notified of the hearing date or properly subpoenaed, as applicable.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATE: February 05, 2016

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LAURIE GORSLINE
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings