

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2016010039

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR
CONTINUANCE AND SETTING
MEDIATION, PREHEARING
CONFERENCE AND HEARING
DATES

On January 29, 2016, the Office of Administrative Hearings granted Student's continuance request, and the set the matter for prehearing conference for 1:00 p.m., on March 18, 2016, and hearing for March 28 through 30, 2016. On March 14, 2016, Student filed a request to continue the dates in this matter with OAH, based upon pending independent educational evaluations that are to be completed by the end of April 2016. On March 14, 2016, Garden Grove Unified School District filed a non-opposition.

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. Student established good cause for a continuance to permit the completion of the independent educational evaluations. NO

FURTHER CONTINUANCES SHALL BE GRANTED. Therefore, this matter will be set as follows:

Mediation: May 4, 2016, at 11:30 AM¹
Prehearing Conference: May 13, 2016, at 10:00 AM
Due Process Hearing: May 23, 2016, at 1:30 PM, May 24 through 26, 2016, at 9:00 AM, and continuing day to day, Monday through Thursday, as needed at the discretion of the Administrative Law Judge. Matter is assigned to Administrative Law Judge Judith Pasewark.

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: March 18, 2016

DocuSigned by:
Peter Paul Castillo
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PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings

¹ Student request that the mediation be on Friday, May 6, 2016. The Office of Administrative Hearings does not conduct mediations on Fridays, absent a showing of good cause, which Student did not establish. The set mediation date and time was suggested by District. Parents, who represent Student, can determine if that date and time is acceptable.