

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of:

PARENT ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL
DISTRICT.

OAH Case No. 2015100319

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

On November 12, 2016, Capistrano Unified School District filed a request to continue the dates in this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings, based upon unavailability of District's legal counsel and ongoing assessment of Student. On November 17, 2015, Student opposed the request based upon that District did not establish good cause for a continuance until January 25, 2016.

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 established good cause for a continuance of the initially set dates in this matter due to the unavailability of its legal counsel and ongoing assessment of Student. Therefore, this matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference: January 8, 2016, at 10:00 AM
Due Process Hearing: January 25, 2015 at 1:30 PM, January 26 through
28, 2015, 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 Robert
Helfand.

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: November 17, 2015

/s/

PETER PAUL CASTILLO
Presiding Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings