

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:
PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT,

v.

PAJARO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2021070295

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

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

On September 22, 2021, Student filed with the Office of Administrative Hearings, referred to as OAH, a request to continue this matter, based upon the unavailability of Student's counsel on the currently scheduled dates for hearing due to a conflicting hearing in a previously filed case. On September 23, 2021, Pajaro Valley 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. (Ed. Code, § 56505, subd. (f)(3); 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 or imposing conditions on the continuance; and any other relevant fact or circumstance. (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 for continuance was timely filed three days before the currently scheduled prehearing conference. Student has established good cause based on the unavailability of Student's counsel. The request is:

Granted. All dates are vacated. This matter will be set as follows:

Prehearing Conference will be held via videoconference on October 15, 2021, at 10:00 am.

Due Process Hearing will be held via videoconference on October 26 and 27, 2021. October 28 and 29 are not available dates for hearing. The hearing shall begin at

9:30 AM on all days unless otherwise ordered. The hearing shall continue day to day, 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 their availability to testify. Good cause for witness unavailability is not established by failing to properly notify or subpoena a witness. Prehearing conference statements and motions are due to OAH no later than three business days before the prehearing conference or with evidence of good cause why it was not possible to file the motion by that date.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Rita Defilippis

Rita Defilippis

Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings