

Marin Dependency Representation  
RFP Number CFCC-200903-CT

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Question #1.* Who can interested proposers contact to arrange dependency court observation prior to submission of a proposal?

*Answer #1.* Interested proposers may contact Ms. Kim Turner, Court Executive Officer, at 415-444-7398 to arrange court observation. Please note that the regular dependency calendar is held only on Tuesdays. Dependency court observation is not required for a prospective proposer to submit a proposal. There is no guarantee of the availability of Ms. Turner or the ability to accommodate all requestors to permit court observation prior to the proposal due date. Further, prospective proposers are reminded that any contact with Ms. Turner, or the Marin Court, shall be strictly limited to arranging a court observation and shall not include any questions, discussions, dialogue or solicitation of any information of any type regarding the RFP. Unauthorized questions, discussions, dialogue or solicitation of any information of any type regarding the RFP with Ms. Turner or any Marin court personnel may be cause for rejection of the proposer's proposal.

*Question #2.* How many dependency cases are there?

*Answer #2.* 81

*Question #3.* How do you count the number of clients?

*Answer #3.* Each individual person is counted as a client, including all children in a sibling group.

*Question #4.* Would contracts cover guardian ad-litem appointments?

*Answer #4.* No, any contract ensuing from the RFP will not address guardian ad-litem representation.

*Question #5.* Does the court have a separate panel for guardian ad-litem appointment?

*Answer #5.* No, there is no separate panel. Current dependency conflict counsel are appointed to these cases, but not as part of their dependency contract.

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*Question #6.* Is Tuesday the only day that dependency cases are set on calendar?

*Answer #6.* In addition to the regular Tuesday calendar, dependency mediations are scheduled on Thursdays and trials can be scheduled on any day of the week.

*Question #7.* What criteria are proposals being evaluated on? Is cost the only consideration?

*Answer #7.* While cost is an important evaluation criterion it only represents 35 out of a possible total 100 points. The criteria place a strong emphasis on the proposer's ability to provide high quality services, as well as the proposer's ability to explain how attorneys affect child welfare outcomes. Please refer to Section 7.0 of the RFP for details regarding the evaluation criteria.

*Question #8.* Does the court have any policy goals or initiatives?

*Answer #8.* Yes, the court has a local Blue Ribbon Commission that has developed a work plan for improving child welfare outcomes. The court also has initiatives around dependency mediation and pre-filing representation, as outlined in the RFP.

*Question #9.* Will pre-filing representation definitely be implemented?

*Answer #9.* Pre-filing representation is currently being discussed and may start sometime during the term of the contract.

*Question #10.* Do attorneys participate in dependency mediation?

*Answer #10.* Yes, attorneys currently participate in the mediation process. However, a steering committee will be conducting an evaluation to determine if attorneys will continue to participate in mediation in the future.

*Question #11.* Will attorneys who bid under Lot 5 be expected to handle conflicts?

*Answer #11.* No, Lot 5 proposals should assume representation of only 1 party per case. Representation under this Lot may include first level representation only of either parents and/or children (if the proposal is the highest ranked across all Lots) or representation of conflict parents and/or children (if the proposals from

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Lots 1 and/or 3 represent the highest ranked proposals across all Lots). In either scenario Lot 5 proposals are not expected to handle conflicts.

*Question #12.* If there are proposals submitted for Lots 2 and 4, then proposals submitted for other lots will not be considered?

*Answer #12.* Proposals submitted for each Lot will first be evaluated and ranked against proposals submitted for the same Lot. The highest ranked proposals by Lot will then be identified. If proposals submitted for Lot 2 and/or Lot 4 represent the highest ranked proposals across all Lots, then proposals in the other Lots will not be selected.

If proposals for Lots 1 and/or 3 represent the highest ranked proposals across all Lots, Lot 5 proposals, and/or the next highest ranked proposals from Lots 1 and/or 3 may be selected.

If proposals for Lot 5 are the highest ranked proposals across all Lots, the highest ranked proposals from Lots 1 and/or 3 may be selected.

*Question #13.* What is the timeline for awards?

*Answer #13.* Evaluation of proposals, including any interviews as may be necessary, is expected to be completed between April 23 and May 28, 2010. Notice of intent to award is estimated to occur on or before June 1, 2010. Contracts with the selected contractors will be finalized and executed before June 30, 2010 and selected contractors will begin providing service on July 1, 2010.

*Question #14.* If an interview is requested, will the interview occur in May?

*Answer #14.* Yes.

*Question #15.* How will cost proposal limits be used? Are these maximum and minimum amounts?

*Answer #15.* The amount ranges included in Section 5.6.7 of the RFP should not be considered limits, nor should they be considered maximum or minimum amounts. The amount ranges represent the AOC's expectation that annual costs

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should most likely fall within the particular range by Lot and will be used as benchmarks when evaluating the reasonableness of cost proposals.

*Question #16.* Is there a particular type of collaboration that is being encouraged?

*Answer #16.* No, not in terms of proposal submission. However, a collaborative approach is encouraged and expected among all parties in addressing the needs of children and families in the juvenile dependency court system.

*Question #17.* How many counties currently have dependency contracts with the AOC?

*Answer #17.* 20

*Question #18.* Does the court make appointments for alleged fathers?

*Answer #18.* Yes.

*Question #19.* Are current contracts available for review?

*Answer #19.* Yes, however, any request for copies of current dependency counsel contracts must be made by following the procedures set forth for Public Access to Judicial Administrative Records at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/pubaccess.htm>.

Please note that the contracts for dependency counsel contracts differ from county to county, and reflect the services and requirements that were solicited for that particular county, including prior contracts for Marin dependency representation. Such current contracts are not germane to the services being solicited under this RFP.

Further, there is no guarantee that any such requested copies of current dependency counsel contracts will be made available prior to the proposal due date.

*Question #20.* I am interesting in bidding. I was not able to attend the Pre-Proposal Conference. Was anything handed out that I would need to bid or is everything contained in the RFP attachments/email I received?

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*Answer #20.* No additional materials were handed out during the bidders' conference. Everything is included in the RFP document and accompanying attachments.

*Question #21.* I was not clear if this proposal was to be for representing children only, parents only or both. Please clarify.

*Answer #21.* Proposals submitted for Lots 1 and 2 are for children's representation only. Proposals submitted for Lots 3 and 4 are for parent's representation only. Proposals submitted for Lot 5 could be for representing both.

*[End of Questions and Answers]*