

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RFP Number: CFCC 2012-01-RB

Imperial County Dependency Representation

August 15, 2012

1. Does each Lot contemplate that the contracted amount will pay for all counsel in the lot? The reason for the question is that later in the RFP there is a section on reimbursement and it includes conflict counsel. For example, does Lot 1 contemplate just two parents and then all others are “conflict” and thus reimbursable? If not, what is considered a reimbursable conflict attorney expense?

Answer: The available funding included in Section 7.2.3 of the RFP is the total funding available for all levels of representation within the respective lot.

Lot 1 includes representation for all parents, guardians, and de facto parents in juvenile dependency proceedings. An agency that is not organized to have staff attorneys available to cover all levels of parent representation may establish subcontracts with conflict attorneys. Under this model, expenses associated with representation provided by conflict attorneys are reimbursed based on actual expenditures. The budget should detail the salary for staff attorneys and the estimated funding needed for conflict attorneys, if applicable. However, the total budget for both should be within the range included in the RFP.

2. Assuming that one or more current contractors do not win the bid and are terminated, there will be up to six month period to transfer the files to the new contractors. Who pays the terminated counsel to handle the cases until transferred, the AOC?

Answer: Payment to existing contractors who are not awarded a contract from this RFP will receive payment directly from the AOC until the transition of all cases is complete.

3. Currently, all three contractors represent parents and children. Assuming one or more of them is awarded a contract under the RFP for example, for children only, but they currently have some parents, what happens to those parent clients? It would seem fair to transfer the parent clients to “parents” counsel.

Answer: If a current vendor is selected and awarded one of the new contracts, representation of existing clients may be continued and incorporated into the new contract. The goal is to ensure that all lots are appropriately staffed by the expected contract start date of October, 1, 2012, while also minimizing disruption of services to clients. The exact transition timeline may vary per case as described in Attachment 4,

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[Section 7. This determination will be made on a case by case basis during the transitional period after selection has been finalized.](#)

4. When is the last information you have on client count in this county and what is the breakdown by parents and children? That information does not appear to have been included for Imperial County and it is difficult to prepare an RFP without this information.

[Answer: Caseload information for Imperial County can be found in Attachment 4, Section 9 of the solicitation document.](#)

5. A key question is to clear up an ambiguity. For example, when the RFP requests representation of ALL parents does it mean that the funds provided are to pay for that? Or, for example, since there are usually two parents in most cases is the funding for Lot 1 only for parent 1 and then the AOC will reimburse for conflict counsel for second parent, third parent etc? The same applies for children.

[Answer: See the response to Question 1.](#)

6. Who pays for old contractors who do not win a bid whose cases may linger for awhile, months etc?

[Answer: See the response to Question 2.](#)

7. What happens if a winning bidder is already a contractor and has mixed cases? For example, they win the parent bid will they be able to transfer all children clients to the “new” child contractor?

[Answer: See the response to Question 3.](#)

8. Finally, and very important, we need the current count of open child and parent cases ASAP so we can start working on budgets.

[Answer: See the response to Question 4](#)

9. The proposal is somewhat ambiguous because on the one-hand it appears that the proposed budget for each lot contemplates that all counsel will be paid from the budgeted amount. But, there are provisions for payment of conflict counsel outside of the contracted amount. Therefore, the question is in Lot 1 does the budgeted amount contemplate that contractor will pay for first and second parent and all others will be conflict and reimbursed? Or, does the contract for Lot 1 cover just first parent counsel and all others are conflict and reimbursed? Or, are all counsel, regardless of the number of parents and/or guardians to be paid out of the contracted amount and the conflict info in the RFP is a mistake and should not have been included?

[Answer: See the response to Question 1.](#)

10. The same question applies to Lots 2 and 3.

[Answer: See the response to Question 1.](#)

11. Who pays for the old contractors who do not win a bid and whose cases cannot be transferred right away to new contractors? AOC? Or, will this amount come out of the budgeted/contracted amount of the new contractors?

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Answer: [See the response to Question 2.](#)

12. What happens if a winning bidder is already a contractor who wins Lot 1 but is also currently representing children? Will they be able to transfer the children to new children counsel or will they be required to be continue representation but paid outside of their contract on an hourly basis or expected to continue representation within the new contract?

Answer: [See the response to Question 3.](#)

[END OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS]