

**Request for Proposals (RFP): Juvenile Dependency Proceedings
Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino
Bidder's Conference: July 18, 2005**

Questions and Answers (Q&A)

1. Does the time reporting required in Appendix A affect the amount that the contracted service providers will be paid?

No. Contracts will be awarded on a flat fee basis. Invoice documentation is separate, and will be required as the means for providers to report the work they do on dependency cases, but there is no correlation between the time reported and the amount paid.

2. What was the cost of dependency representation in recent years?

The total cost for the last fiscal year (July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005) was approximately \$400,000. This amount includes the cost for dependency representation provided by the Public Defender's office, which is approximately \$82,693; and \$81,240 for representation costs provided by the Alternate Public Defender's office.

3. As a sole practitioner, I am interested in submitting a proposal to represent only coastal clients, can you provide information about how many cases are filed on the coast?

4. Of the \$400,000 per year, what percent is spent for the representation of parent and what percent for the representation of children?

We are researching these two questions. When the information becomes available, a revised version of this document will be posted

5. Will bids for representation of a portion of the caseload be considered?

Yes. Section 4.3 of the RFP requires bidders to specify the number of clients they propose to represent.

6. The caseload statistics provided in Table 1 are confusing, and the Public Defender's caseload information is different from that provided. Does 282 parents refer to clients or cases? How was this information obtained?

The caseload information in Table 1 of the RFP relies on information provided by Mendocino County DSS to determine the number of children in the court system. The number of parents is derived from the number of children, based on the AOC's extensive caseload study that was completed in 2003, which found that the number of parents represented is approximately 72% of the number of children represented.

282 parents refers to the number of clients. The caseload figures represent a point-in-time snapshot, since dependency cases open and close throughout the year. The Public Defender's Office may count cases differently.

7. *How many panel attorneys currently represent children in the Mendocino court?*

Approximately five to six.

8. *Is the caseload evenly distributed among the panel members?*

No, because some attorneys devote a higher percentage of their practice to dependency representation than others.

9. *Does the Public Defender represent children?*

No typically, but the Alternate Public Defender does have a few children's cases.

10. *If I want to take only a few overflow cases, do I have to submit a proposal?*

Providers who anticipate taking ten or fewer new appointments annually are not required to submit a proposal.

11. *What is the duration of the contract?*

October 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007.

12. *What is the model that was implemented in the Stanislaus court?*

Prior to issuing the RFP, Stanislaus had a large panel model. As a result of the RFP process, representation has been consolidated to four primary providers, with a very small panel for overflow cases.

13. *If the Public Defender's office is able to provide more accurate caseload information, should we do so?*

Yes, this information may be included in your proposal.

14. *Is filing information from prior years available?*

| Fiscal Year: | FY 04-05 | FY 03-04 | FY 02-03 | FY 01-02 | FY 00-01 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. No. of Juveniles Subject of Dependency Petitions ¹ : | | | | | |
| Original | 190 | 228 | 208 | 196 | 162 |
| Subsequent | 4 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Total Filings | 194 | 238 | 209 | 200 | 167 |

¹ Source: California Judicial Branch Statistical Information System

15. Will the lagtime in payment that providers are currently experiencing be remedied when new contracts are implemented?

Yes.

16. What will be the impact on contracted providers if there is a delay in implementing a state budget?

The AOC is subject to state budget issues. In the past, we have been able to find solutions that allow for uninterrupted payment of dependency counsel. However, this is an issue to be considered by those contemplating doing business with the state.

17. How do cuts to the AOC's budget affect this program?

The agency budget for the Administrative Office of the Courts is separate and distinct from the Trial Courts budget. The Judicial Council supports full funding of court appointed counsel.

18. Are there areas with regard to current representation in which the court would like to see improvements?

The court would like proposals to include a means to provide coverage when appointed counsel is unavailable. There have been problems with getting all the attorneys on a case to come to court at the same time, which causes delays.

19. What percent of the parent clients are conflicts?

Unfortunately, this information is unavailable because it is not reported.