

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BY POTENTIAL BIDDERS
FOR RFP #2020-02 JUVENILE DEPENDENCY LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

Updated July 8, 2020 – FINAL update

1. Regarding the recent change in the federal government’s Child Welfare Policy Manual, which now permits claiming federal Title IV-E funds for attorneys providing legal representation to a Title IV-E-eligible child in foster care or to the child’s parents: Is this program something that can be implemented with the current Request for Proposal?

Participation in the program for Title IV-E federal match funding/reimbursement is a process separate from the Court’s contract for services under RFP 2020-02, and therefore should not be considered within bids for this procurement. Participation under the Title IV-E funding requires a separate contract between the Judicial Council of California and the Shasta County Superior Court (“Court”) and/or each individual attorney providing eligible services.

If feasible, the Court will later work with the attorney/attorneys awarded a contract for services under RFP 2020-02 to possibly enter into a separate agreement with Judicial Council in order to obtain match funding/reimbursement under Title IV-E in order to bridge any gap between dependency counsel funding allocated to the Shasta County Superior Court, and actual annual expenses. That funding gap is otherwise paid for using the trial court’s trust fund. The allocation amount to Shasta County Superior Court for court-appointed juvenile dependency counsel services in FY 20/21 is not likely to be determined until late July 2020.

2a. The RFP states that currently six attorneys represent approximately 1,430 cases. Does that figure include all of the current open cases? Yes.

2b. If so, as of what date? The estimate was made in early June 2020.

2c. How many cases did those six attorneys each represent over each of the past three years? Each of the attorneys submit monthly case statistic reports which indicate their monthly active case balance, number of cases opened, number of cases closed, and hours worked. The numbers fluctuate by month. The court has not totaled these statistics in the manner you inquire. However, the case statistics by attorney and month can be viewed in person or copies of the documents may be requested by contacting administration@shasta.courts.ca.gov.

2d. How many of these cases were mothers? Fathers? Children? Sibling groups? The court does not maintain statistics in the manner you inquire. It may be possible to make an estimate of each category by reviewing the monthly case statistic reports by attorney, addressed above, as each of the current attorneys is generally assigned a category (Attorney 1 represents mothers, Attorney 2 represents presumed fathers, etc.)

2e. How many new cases were opened in each of the last three calendar years? How many cases were closed in each of the last three calendar years? This information is contained in monthly case statistic reports submitted by each attorney, but has not been totaled by the court in the manner you inquire. However, the case statistic reports by attorney and month can be viewed in person or copies of the documents may be requested by contacting administration@shasta.courts.ca.gov.

2f. Does that 1,430 figure include any cases assigned to attorneys outside of the six attorneys mentioned? Yes.

2g. If so, how many cases are assigned other attorneys? The number of subcontractors providing court-appointed services under the current contract occasionally fluctuates, and is determined by the administrator of the current contract. There is one additional attorney who provides court-appointed dependency counsel services in one case that is not a subcontractor to the current contract.

2h. Are those cases covered under the current contract? No. The contract provides that the current contractor pays the costs of any court-appointed attorneys who remained as counsel after the commencement of the current contract. Currently there is one attorney, with the one case, in which the current contractor pays for appointed representation services.

2i. If so, how are the other attorneys compensated? The contract provides that the contractor pay the attorney directly.

2j. Does the contract holder pay the compensation for these other attorneys or is it paid by the Court? The contract provides that the contractor pay the attorney directly. However, circumstances warrant that the one attorney currently provides an invoice to the court and the current contractor reimburses the court in the amount of the invoice.