



## Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.  
The Department of Social Services (DSS) seeks mediation services to resolve child welfare dependency cases in a timely manner. Mediation services allow for a non-adversarial atmosphere to foster communication and collaboration among all parties involved in a child's case. The mediator assists the parties in reaching an informed and mutually acceptable solution. This benefits children who may temporarily reside in a foster care home and have reunification with parents pending the approval of the Juvenile Dependency Court.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.  
Superior Court of California  
Attention: Kimberly Sisk  
1100 Van Ness Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93724-0002  
Phone: (559) 457-2157  
Email: ksisk@fresno.courts.ca.gov
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.  
The total cost for 5 years is \$990,180. The annual cost is \$198,036.
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.  
Mediation services provided by the Superior Court mediator(s) are in compliance with the rules of the court and Welfare and Institution Code Section 350(a)(2). Superior Court is the only provider of a dependency mediation program which provides a problem solving forum to develop a plan in the best interest of the child. No other vendors qualify as a provider for this service.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.  
 In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.  
 When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.  
 When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$2,500 whichever is more.  
 When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.  
 When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.  
 When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.  
DSS uses court mediation services to evaluate and assist all parties involved to reach an acceptable solution primarily in regards to custody, visitation, reunification, and permanency plans in child welfare cases. Mediation services allow the Department to resolve child welfare cases in a timely manner and promote child well-being by emphasizing family preservation and strengthening methods.
7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.  
Welfare and Institution Code Section 350(a)(2) and California Rules of Court encourage the establishment of, and set forth the responsibility of the Superior Court, to uniquely provide a dependency mediation program. Superior Court is the only provider of this court program.

hbolger 4/6/2022 4:29:40 PM

Requested By:

[\[✉ Sign\]](#) Double click!

Title

**I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.**

zaratm 4/8/2022 4:03:39 PM

Department Head Signature

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Purchasing Manager Signature

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