



Notice of Intent to Certify Sole Source

RFX #: 3150005202

Service Overview:

The Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS) is currently seeking to enter into a sole-source contract for Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys services as described below. **Anyone objecting to this purchase as a sole source shall follow the procedures outlined below before Wednesday September 13, 2023, at 3:00 pm CST.**

Purpose:

The purpose of this contract is to provide a highly interactive training for CPS Child Welfare Attorneys. The vendor will be responsible for:

- Training 75 child welfare attorneys facilitated by national child welfare experts;
- Enhancing and building participants' advocacy skills;
- Developing skill-building exercises adapted to Mississippi;
- Providing litigation strategies to help focus on how best to support the family and help children achieve permanency faster; and
- Building knowledge of relevant state and federal laws, including rules of evidence.

Outcomes of Contracted Services:

- Improved skills in examining and cross-examining witnesses in court;
- Practical experience working through child welfare case scenarios in a mock trial setting with personalized feedback from experienced national child welfare litigators; and
- Encourage competent interactions with families, jurors, and judges.

Scope of Services:

The American Bar Association will provide training and coaching for 75 child welfare attorneys. ABA will provide best practices for representing the best interests of children in legal matters involving child abuse, neglect, dependency, custody, foster care, adoption, and other issues by providing prevention services to children and their families of origin.

Location/Delivery Setting:

The ABA shall perform the services required at any place or location selected by MDCPS that is consistent with the Services to be provided. MDCPS shall select a location with sufficient space that will accommodate breakout sessions and will enable the ABA to utilize AV equipment.

Education, Certifications and Training:

Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys is provided by National Child Welfare Experts. The ABA designed this Trial Skills program more than 20 years ago to help fill a gap in the availability of nationally informed child welfare attorney training. They have successfully provided the ABA Trials Skills training to over 16 states. The American Bar Association (ABA) was founded in 1878 on a commitment to set the legal and ethical foundation by advancing the rule of law across the United States and beyond by providing practical resources for legal professionals.

Explanation of why the source is the only person or entity that can provide the required services.

Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys was developed by the American Bar Association, an Illinois not for profit corporation (“ABA”), on behalf of its Center on Children and the Law (“CCL”). This association provides interdisciplinary training (simultaneously training judges, prosecutors, parent reps, agency attorneys, and AG attorneys) through live courtroom simulations and feedback. To date they have provided this training at the ABA Center on Children and the Law national conferences, and to over 16 states. The ABA Center on Children and the Law is the only organization that provides this training.

Estimated Cost:

The estimated annual amount to be expended for Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys Training is \$ 45,660.00. This amount is within the expected price range for these services.

Objection to Sole Source Procedure:

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the services listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Jerrika Brantley

Director of Procurement & Contracts

contract@mdcps.ms.gov

Subject Line must read “Sole Source Objection - Trial Skills for Child Welfare Attorneys Training

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the service is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MDCPS determines that the service in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MDCPS will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the service to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MDCPS determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required service, then MDCPS will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MDCPS will have the burden of proving that the service is only provided by one (1) source.

MDCPS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAYS IN THE DELIVERY OR RESPONSES. It is solely the responsibility of the interested Parties that responses reach MDCPS on time. Interested Parties may contact Jerrika Brantley to verify the receipt of their responses. Responses received after the deadline will be rejected.

Dates of Publication – August 24, 2023