

12/28/2015

Below are questions presented to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety (MDPS) regarding RFP#3120000568 Forensic Testing

1. **Question:** The MSCL reference a total case volume for the project of 825 cases per year. Do you have a breakdown of the estimation of cases within that will require analysis for heavy metals, DFSA, synthetic cannabinoids, and bath salts?

Answer: No. We do not have a breakdown of the estimation of cases within that will require analysis for heavy metals, DFSA, synthetic cannabinoids, and bath salts

2. **Question:** How many cases per year does the MSCL anticipate utilizing urine, vitreous fluid and tissue as the only matrix for analysis?

Answer: Most of the cases will be utilizing blood, vitreous, and urine. There will be a few organ tissue request when the other fluids are not available.

3. **Question:** Vendor shall be ISO 17025:2005 or ABFT compliant: Will the MSCL accept other accreditations such as CLIA, CAP, or SAMHSA as an acceptable laboratory accreditation for consideration of this contract?

Will vendors that comply with multiple forensic accreditations be more favorably scored in the evaluation process than vendors that hold only one?

Answer: No, No.

4. **Question:** Is it acceptable for a vendor to report out their “average turnaround time” based on recent historical data for this specification?

Answer: Yes

5. **Question:** Is subcontracting any portion of this RFP acceptable by the MSCL? If so, will vendors that perform all testing for the RFP within their laboratory be scored higher than laboratories that must outsource certain drug confirmations to a reference laboratory?

Answer: No subcontracting is not acceptable.

6. **Question:** Regarding this area of the RFP, will drug scopes to be evaluated as part of this area of the RFP, including scope G and H for bath salts and Synthetic cannabinoids?

Will a contracted lab be more favorably ranked based on their available scopes for synthetic cannabinoids and Bath Salts?

Answer: Yes, Yes.

7. **Question:** What type of training is the MSCL looking for through a forensic laboratory partner within this contract?

Answer: Training that would be similar to what is required by ABFT/ISO 17025:2005

8. **Question:** Will a vendor's ability to provide accredited forensic testing services that supplement postmortem toxicology be considered as part of the vendor's scope of work? (Services include testing of non-biologic materials such as narcotics, forensic DNA testing of unidentified body or human remain, or forensic firearms analysis.

Answer: Yes

9. **Question:** What percent of the total cases are expected to be death investigation (postmortem) and what percent for Implied Consent DUI?

Answer: 90/10

10. **Question:** What percent of cases are expected to require testimony?

Answer: One percent or less

11. **Question:** Are the samples to be returned to the MS Crime Laboratory after testing?

Answer: Only upon request

12. **Question:** Regarding list #1 - #4, the Mississippi State Crime Lab has outlined very extensive scopes to meet the needs of postmortem, DUID, and DFSA toxicology. Accredited Forensic laboratories in the private sector often follow recommendations by national and federal entities such as the national safety council (NSC) and the Society of Forensic Toxicologists (SOFT) as they recommend compounds or panels to be included in testing. These Accredited Forensic laboratory may also perform directed industry research on the most beneficial and relevant compounds associated with each type of toxicological investigation, in an effort of improving their testing panels anywhere from every 9 months to 3 years depending on the type of analysis. Will a vendor be considered for this RFP based on their ability to provide the most comprehensive panels in close alignment with the scopes in list 1-4, as well as the overall requirements of the RFP?

Answer: Yes