

Questions and Answers in RED (Updated 10/4/21)

1. In section II. E it says: A copy of the contract is available for review and shall include requirements to comply with ADA, Civil Rights Act, and EEO requirements. **If there is a current and separate for conflict counsel, could I see a copy of it?** There is no separate requirement for conflict counsel.
2. **How many conflict cases a year, can the successful candidate expect to be assigned?** This will help us know how many attorneys we will need to dedicate to the endeavor. Hard to determine. Historically – About five-six per month. This is a Conflict Conflict Public Defender – or secondary Conflict Public Defender. We might anticipate more going forward for this position, because our new primary conflict isn't as staffed as our previous Primary, and it may be a case where that overflows will go to the Secondary not only because of a reason of a conflict from the PD and the Primary Conflict PD, but because of need of a PD.
3. **Are you looking for a “Primary Conflict Public Defender” who will be the focus and intended firm for assigned conflict cases or are you looking for several conflict attorneys for a panel?** This is a Secondary Conflict Attorney. See #2. We are only looking to fill one firm for this RFP. We currently have a PD, and a Primary Conflict PD. This position is for a Secondary Conflict PD.
4. **What is the expected term of the contract?** The attached RFP appears to be a request for proposals for the Primary Public Defender, which states a term of from July 1, 2019 to December 31, 2021? Please see section III (H)(b). We decided to make this a one-year contract simply because of the economic environment and also because the Primary Conflict PD contract will end at the end of 2022.
5. **Does Federal Way Municipal Court intend to hold court hearings virtually (via Zoom, for example) or will the clients and attorneys be expected to appear in person?** There are some zoom, and they are still meeting in person.
6. It specifies 1700 cases a year, however, that would be more consistent with the full PD contract. Through billing or some other means, can you give us the projected yearly caseload so we can better gauge the level of services needed. This is for the secondary, and you are right, the 1700 is more for the primary conflict. Typically the secondary has about five or six cases per month.
7. Are you looking to select one firm for all of the conflicts, or is there going to be a number of conflict providers that get appointed via a rotation system? We are only looking for one secondary Conflict PD. That has worked well for us in the past. Typically, only once a year do we need an attorney because the Public Defender and the Conflict Primary and the Secondary Conflict all have a conflict.

8. Who are the current conflict public defenders and do you know why they will no longer be providing services? I see the term indicated was from July 2019 to December 2021. This must be the old contract time frame? It indicates a 2 year extension to 2023. Our Primary was Goldenwood, but they no longer are able to provide this service as of November 1st. The main attorney in their office who handled most of the cases went to another firm. Our Secondary was Matt Rusnak; and it is expected that Attorney Rusnak will be our primary. Our PD is Hawkins & Crawford.

9. Do you know where the majority of the in-custody clients are jailed? I see three different jails listed in the RFP. The inmates are mostly not at SCORE. Accommodations will be made for you by the Court.