

NOTICE OF OPEN SOLICITATION

ACS-NOS-23-002

RETURN THIS PROPOSAL TO THE ISSUING OFFICE AT:



State of Alaska/Alaska Court System
 Purchasing Department
 820 West 4th Avenue
 Anchorage, AK 99501-2005
 Attn: Jesse Head
 Procurement Specialist II

THIS IS NOT AN ORDER

DATE ISSUED: January 27, 2023

Open solicitation-Transcription Services

This is an open solicitation for qualified responders to be added to a list of transcribers contracted with the court. Solicitation responses may be submitted to the Alaska Court System Purchasing Department at any time, **but must be received by Friday, February 17, 2023 at 2:00p.m. Alaska Time (AKT) to be considered for inclusion in the initial list of contractors.**

Any questions referring to the solicitation process should be directed to the Purchasing Department, contact information provided in the box below. Any questions referring to the transcript process should be directed to Transcript Coordinator, Kathleen Amand, at kamand@akcourts.gov.

PROVIDER’S NOTICE: By signature on this form, the respondent certifies that:

- (1) the respondent has a valid Alaska business license or will obtain one prior to award of any contract resulting from this NOS. If the bidder possesses a valid Alaska business license, the license number must be written below or one the following forms of evidence submitted with the response:
 - * a canceled check for the business license fee;
 - * a copy of the business license application with a receipt date stamp from the State’s business license office;
 - * a receipt from the State’s business license office for the license fee;
 - * a copy of the respondent’s valid business license;
 - * a sworn notarized affidavit that the respondent has applied and paid for a business license;

- (2) the respondent is in compliance with:
 - * the laws of the State of Alaska;
 - * the applicable portion of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - * the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued hereunder by the state and federal government; and
 - * all terms and conditions set out in this solicitation.

The forgoing requirements are ongoing throughout the open solicitation process and the term of any contractor with the Alaska Court System. If any respondent fails to comply with (1) or (2) of this paragraph, the Alaska Court System may reject the response, terminate the contract, or consider the contractor in default.

Jesse Head Procurement Specialist II jhead@akcourts.gov Telephone Number 907-264-8224 Fax Number 907-264-8292	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 50%;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Name</td> <td>Federal Tax ID Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Authorized Signature</td> <td>Date</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Printed Name</td> <td>Telephone Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alaska Business License Number</td> <td>Fax Number</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> <td style="border-top: 1px solid black;"></td> </tr> </table>			Business Name	Federal Tax ID Number			Authorized Signature	Date			Printed Name	Telephone Number			Alaska Business License Number	Fax Number		
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STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. **Authority:** This solicitation is conducted under the provisions of the Alaska Court System (sometimes referred to as "ACS") Procurement Guidelines, adopted by the administrative director of the Alaska Court System effective September 25, 2013. Copies of the Procurement Guidelines are available without charge from the Purchasing Department, 820 W. Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501, telephone: (907) 264-8224 or at <https://courts.alaska.gov/admin/fops/procurement.pdf>.
2. **Respondents with Disabilities:** The Alaska Court System complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aids, services, and/or special modifications to participate in this procurement should contact the procurement officer named on the cover page of this solicitation as soon as possible, but no later than the date and time response submissions are due to make any necessary arrangements.
3. **Solicitation Review:** Respondents are requested to carefully review this solicitation as soon as it is received for defects and questionable or objectionable content. Questions, objections, or comments should be made in writing and received by the purchasing office no less than 15 calendar days before response submission opening, so that any necessary amendments may be published and distributed to respondents. Respondents' protests based upon any omissions, errors, or the content of the solicitation will be disallowed if not made in writing and received by the purchasing office no less than 10 calendar days before submission deadline.
4. **Solicitation Forms:** Respondents must use the attached forms in submitting responses. Response submissions may be submitted on photocopied forms.
5. **Amendments:** Respondents must acknowledge receipt of all amendments issued.
6. **Submitting Responses:** It is the responsibility of the respondent to ensure that the response submission and acknowledgement of subsequent amendments are received by the Purchasing Department before scheduled response submission opening time. Response submissions will be rejected if not received before the time set for opening.
7. **Human Trafficking:** By submission of their response, the respondent certifies that the respondent is not established and headquartered or incorporated and headquartered in a country recognized as Tier 3 in the most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report.

The most recent United States Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report can be found at the following website: <https://www.state.gov/trafficking-in-persons-report/>

Failure to comply with this requirement will cause the state to reject the response submission as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.

8. **Foreign Contracting:** By submission of their response, the respondent certifies that all services provided under this contract by the contractor and all subcontractors shall be performed in the United States. Failure to comply with this requirement may cause the court system to reject the response submission or proposal as non-responsive, or cancel the contract.
9. **Right of Rejection:** The Alaska Court System may reject any and all response submissions, and may waive informalities in response submissions received. A response submission will be rejected if it does not conform in all material respects to the essential requirements of the solicitation, if it contains a material alteration (including an erasure which is not initialed by the signer of the proposal), or if the respondent changes or qualifies the terms or conditions of the solicitation in a material manner which gives the respondent a competitive advantage over other respondents. Minor informalities are matters of form rather than substance, or insignificant mistakes that can be waived or corrected without prejudice to other respondents; that is, the effect on price, quantity, quality, delivery, or contractual conditions is negligible. The fiscal office shall waive in writing these informalities or allow a respondent to correct them depending on which is in the best interest of the Alaska Court System.

10. **Solicitation Cancellation:** A solicitation may be canceled before opening in whole or in part when the purchasing office determines in writing that such action is in the best interest of the court system.
11. **Responsibility:** A contract will be awarded only to a responsible respondent, who as the capability in all respects to perform fully the contract requirements, and the integrity and reliability which will assure good faith performance. A determination by the purchasing office that a respondent is not responsible may be protested.
12. **Assignment(s):** Assignment of rights, duties, or payments under a contract resulting from this solicitation is not permitted unless authorized in writing by the procurement officer of the contracting agency. Proposals that are conditioned upon the Alaska Court System's approval of an assignment will be rejected as non-responsive.
13. **Respondent Tax ID Number:** If goods or services procured through this solicitation are of a type that is required to be included on a Miscellaneous Tax Statement, as described in the Internal Revenue Code, a valid tax identification number must be provided to the Alaska Court System before payment will be made.
14. **Severability:** If any provision of the contract is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, the validity of the remaining terms and provisions will not be affected; and, the rights and obligations of the parties will be construed and enforced as if the contract did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.
15. **Compliance:** In the performance of a contract that results from this solicitation, the contractor must comply with all applicable federal, state, and borough regulations, codes, and laws; and be liable for all required insurance, licenses, permits, and bonds; and pay all applicable federal, state, and borough taxes.
16. **Hold Harmless:** The contractor shall defend, hold, and save the Alaska Court System, its officers, agents, and employees harmless from liability of any nature or kind, including attorney fees, costs, and expenses, for or on account of any or all suits or damages of any virtue of performance of this contract, unless such suits or damages arise from carelessness or negligence on the part of the Alaska Court System or its employees in the performance of their assigned duties.
17. **Solicitation Preparation Costs:** Except as provided in ACS Procurement Guidelines section 4-401.03.8, the Alaska Court System shall not be liable for any costs incurred by the respondent in response submission preparation.
18. **Notice of Intent to Award:** Ten days prior to the formal award of a contract, a Notice of Intent to Award will be issued to all respondents.
19. **Filing a Protest:** An aggrieved respondent responding to a competitive solicitation may file a written protest that contains the information required by 4-401.02.2 of the Alaska Court System Procurement Guidelines to the purchasing office no more than 10 calendar days after receipt of the intent to award.
20. **Contract Extension:** Unless otherwise provided in this solicitation, the Alaska Court System and the contractor agree: (1) that any holding over of the contract, excluding any exercised renewal options, will be considered as a month-to-month extension, and all other terms and conditions shall remain in full force and effect and (2) to provide written notice to the other party of their intent to cancel such month-to-month extension at least 30 days prior to the desired date of cancellation.
21. **Disputes:** Any disputes arising out of this agreement shall be resolved under the ACS PrG and Rule 47 of the Alaska Rules of Administrative Procedure and the laws of Alaska.
22. **Compliance with Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964:** A respondent's submission indicates that the respondent is complying with the application portion of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1971, 1975, and 2000 (the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, AS 18.80 and the regulations issued thereunder by the State and Federal Government. If any respondent fails to comply with the Act or the Regulations issued thereunder, the Alaska Court System reserves the right to terminate the contract.

23. **Compliance with ADA:** By submission of their response, the respondent certifies that they comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued thereunder by the federal government. Services or activities furnished to the general public on behalf of the State must be fully accessible. This is intended to ensure that agencies are in accordance with 28 CFR Part 35 Section 35.130 and that service, programs or activities furnished to the public through a contract do not subject qualified individuals with a disability to discrimination based on the disability.

24. **Independent Contractor Status:** The contractor and any subcontractors, agents, and employees of the contractor act in an independent capacity and are not officers or employees or agents of the ACS in the performance of a contract as a result of this NOS.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The Alaska Court System (“ACS”) is soliciting qualified transcribers to prepare transcripts, primarily for court proceedings for the four judicial districts of the state.

ACS has three types of transcript work: “30-day work,” that which must be completed within 30 days after it is assigned; “15-day work,” that which must be completed within 15 days after it is assigned; and, “7-day work,” that which must be completed within 7 days after it is assigned. ACS will establish two categories of contractors to perform each of these three types of work. These two categories will be designated as “Primary Contractors” and “Overage Contractors.”

ACS will maintain a list of all qualified providers in each category for each type of transcribing work. Transcribers on each list will be assigned on a rotating basis to perform the respective types of work, with ACS reserving the right to make exceptions to the rotation on a case-by-case basis when deemed necessary to best service its operational needs.

1.1 Quantities/Monthly Base Requirements

ACS estimates that its monthly base requirement for transcript work during the term of the contract will be as follows:

12,000 pages of 30-day work
2,000 pages of 15-day work
750 pages of 7-day work

It is important to note that **these quantities are estimates only**. Actual page requirements may vary widely from the numbers shown. Contractors are not guaranteed a minimum number of pages per month.

1.2 Nature of Work to Be Performed

1.2.1 **Primary and Overage Providers:** Because the transcript needs of ACS vary from month to month, based on past experience and anticipated needs, ACS seeks to contract with multiple Primary Contractors for the preparation of 30-day, 15-day, and 7-day work. ACS also seeks to contract with multiple Overage Contractors for 30-day, 15-day, and 7-day work.

The precise number of contractors to be placed on the list of Primary Contractors for each type of work will be determined by the total number of pages all qualified respondents indicate they are willing to produce each month.¹ To qualify as a Primary Contractor, respondents must agree to produce a portion of the monthly base requirement as described in section 1.13.1.² If there are more qualified respondents to this solicitation seeking to work as Primary Contractors than are needed to meet ACS’s minimum monthly base requirements, selection for placement on the initial list will be determined by a random drawing.

Any qualified respondent who desires to be, but is not drawn for inclusion on the active list of Primary Contractors will be placed on the list of Overage Contractors for the type of work indicated. The numerical sequence of placement on the Overage Contractors’ list will be determined by a random drawing of all such qualified respondents. Qualified respondents seeking to become Primary or Overage Contractors after the sequence of the Primary and Overage List is initially determined will be added to the bottom of the Overage List. In the event a vacancy arises on the Primary Contractors’ list, the respondent at the top of the Overage List will be offered the opportunity to become a Primary

¹ For example, if six respondents each indicate that they will accept a maximum of 2,000 pages of 30-day work per month, ACS can produce its monthly base requirement of 12,000 pages of 30-day work, and the number of Primary Contractors for 30-day work would then be six. If three respondents indicate that each will accept up to 2,000 pages of 30-day work per month, and six respondents indicate that each will accept up to 1,000 pages of 30-day work per month, the number of Primary Contractors for 30-day work would be nine. Similarly, if two respondent indicates they will accept 500 pages of 7-day work per month, the number of Primary Contractors for 7-day work would be two, or if three indicate each will accept 250 each, the number of Primary Contractors for 7-day work would be three.

² Note that there is a distinction between the court’s base monthly requirements, which are specified in section 1.1, and the minimum/maximum number of pages per month respondents must commit to produce, which are specified in section 1.13.1.

Contractor for the type of work at issue. If the respondent at the top of the Overage Contractor list declines at that time, their name will be moved to the bottom of the list for the next vacancy, but they will continue to hold their place on the Overage Contractor list.

There is no limitation on the number of respondents who may be placed on the list of Overage Contractors.

Any Primary Contractor who does not produce the number of pages indicated they will accept per month may be placed on the list of Overage Contractors.

1.2.2 Assignment of Work: ACS will assign work first to Primary Contractors. In months when ACS has transcript work exceeding the monthly base requirement (that is, more than 12,000 pages of 30-day work, 2,000 pages of 15-day work, or 750 pages of 7-day work), ACS will assign the additional work first to Primary Contractors and then to Overage Contractors. In months when ACS has less than the monthly base requirement, all available work will be assigned to Primary Contractors. ACS does not guarantee Primary Contractors a minimum number of pages per month, only that any available work will be assigned to Primary Contractors first.

1.3 **Term of Contract**

The term of this contract will be five (5) years, beginning March 13, 2023. Rates will remain firm throughout the term of the contract. Additional qualified respondents may be added to the contract, but such additions will not extend the term of this contract.

1.4 **Pricing**

ACS will pay for transcription services according to the following rate schedule:

30-Day Work

Primary Contractors	\$4.00 per page
Overage Contractors	\$3.85 per page

15-Day Work

Primary Contractors	\$4.15 per page
Overage Contractors	\$4.00 per page

CINA 15-day work for both Primary and Overage Contractors

CINA case	\$4.25 per page
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7-Day Work

Primary Contractors	\$4.25 per page
Overage Contractors	\$4.10 per page

1.5 **Format of Transcripts**

1.5.1 Manual of Transcript Procedures: Except as otherwise provided in this section, transcripts must be prepared in accordance with the official form prescribed by the most recent version of the Manual of Transcript Procedures and all subsequent versions and supplements of the Manual of Transcript Procedures. The current manual can be viewed online at <https://public.courts.alaska.gov/web/forms/docs/tf-410.pdf>.

1.5.2 Digital Recordings and Log Notes: ACS will provide contractors with the audio recordings of court proceedings in digital format.

1.5.3 Format of Electronic Version: The Contractor must submit one electronic copy of the transcript in a condensed format described in the Manual of Transcript Procedures (four condensed pages of transcript per full page) and one full size copy converted into an Adobe file. Electronic copies of the transcript must match page per page, line per line. Each copy of the transcript must be a complete document and include the transcriber's electronic signature on the certificate page in the last volume. The condensed version must be in a font size that is readable after printing, no smaller than a font size point 10. The transcriber should submit samples for approval before submitting the completed condensed transcript.

1.5.4 Questions and Expectations: ACS will provide any available resource materials to aid with transcription, but it is the Contractor's responsibility to do their own research and use their best judgment on assignments. The Statewide Transcript Office does not train and expects the Contractor to have the research skills and abilities to resolve most questions. If, after every effort has been made and there are still unresolved questions, submit the questions via email to the Transcript Coordinator. Please allow up to one full business day for response.

Sanitized Version: In cases involving confidential information, such as those involving termination of parental rights and those that fall under the Victims' Rights Act, two versions of the same transcript may be required. This would require an original transcript as well as a "sanitized" version in which the Contractor would do a global search and replace certain names and addresses with initials or pseudonyms such as John or Jane Doe. The Contractor must have the ability to perform this procedure in a manner that will not delay transcript preparation. The additional fee for a "sanitized" copy of the transcript will be ten cents (\$.10) per page.

1.5.5 Disclaimer: The following disclaimer must appear on the cover page of each volume of a transcript prepared for ACS:

DISCLAIMER
Transcripts Prepared Under Contract by the Alaska Court System

The Alaska Court System has accepted this transcript based on either review of a random sample or without review because the transcriber's prior work has consistently met court system standards. ONLY transcripts produced under contract with the ACS should include this disclaimer. Privately produced transcripts are not reviewed by the ACS.

Because it is possible that this transcript may contain some errors, the court system encourages parties to listen to the recordings of critical portions of the proceedings and to bring any significant errors to the ACS Transcript Coordinator's attention immediately. Audio or video played in court deemed of transcription quality by the transcriber has been completed to the best of their ability.

1.6 Acceptance

1.6.1 Acceptance Procedure: Acceptance of the transcript will be determined within ten working days after receipt of the completed transcript. A random check may be made to assure the finished product is at an acceptable level of quality. However, ACS may accept a transcript without review if the Contractor's prior work has consistently met court system standards. If an assignment is unacceptable, ACS will promptly notify the Contractor, and the transcript and invoice will be returned to the Contractor. The Contractor must correct all major transcribing errors and format errors identified by ACS and resubmit a corrected transcript within the time specified in section 1.8.2.

Upon receipt of a corrected transcript, ACS will verify the corrections and make another random check of the total transcript. If the corrected transcript is unacceptable, the transcript will be rejected and the Contractor will not be paid unless the transcript is corrected and used by ACS per Section 1.6.2.

1.6.2 Accuracy: Upon receipt of a completed transcript, the Transcript Coordinator (or another ACS employee) may make a random check of the transcript and determine the number of major and/or minor errors in the sample. Major errors include:

- (1) transcription or punctuation errors that affect the meaning of the sentence; and
- (2) "Indiscernibles" that are discernible to the Transcript Coordinator when listening to the same audio used by the transcriber.

Major and minor errors are explained in more detail in Part II of the Manual of Transcript Procedures. The Transcript Coordinator may choose to mark all errors in the 'sample'. However, in determining the accuracy rate of the transcript, only major errors will be counted. The Transcript Coordinator will determine the maximum number of allowable major errors in the transcript according to the following formula:

$$\text{Number of pages in a 5\% sample} \times 225 \times .0005 = \text{maximum number of major errors allowed}^3$$

If the sample is at least 99.95 percent accurate, ACS will accept the transcript as is, provided there are no format errors.

If the sample contains more than the maximum number of allowable errors, the Contractor must correct all major errors in the sample. The corrected transcript must be returned to ACS within the time specified in section 1.8.2.

When the corrected transcript is returned, the Transcript Coordinator will review another random sample. If this sample does not meet the 99.95 percent accuracy rate, the transcript will be rejected and the Contractor will not be paid.

Rejected transcripts are the property of ACS and may be corrected and used by ACS. If a rejected transcript is corrected and used, ACS will pay the original Contractor the contract price less the cost to ACS for correcting the transcript.

If a Contractor submits more than eight transcripts that must be returned for correction during the term of the contract, ACS may terminate the contract under Section 1.10.1.

1.6.3 Format Errors: If a transcript contains any of the format errors listed in Part II of the Manual of Transcript Procedures, the Transcript Coordinator will require that those errors be corrected before accepting the transcript. Transcripts returned for correction of format errors, no matter how minor, will be counted when determining if a Contractor has submitted more than eight transcripts that must be returned for correction during the term of the contract under Section 1.6.2. Under section 1.10.1, if a Contractor submits more than eight transcripts that must be returned for correction during the term of the contract, ACS may terminate the contract.

1.7 Payment

Invoices should have an invoice number and must be submitted to ACS with each completed transcript assignment. The invoice must list the case name, trial court case number, and appellate case number (if applicable), the total number of pages of the completed transcript, and whether it is 30-day, 15-day, or 7-day work. The invoice should indicate whether the transcript is of a grand jury proceeding, or a transcript that has been prepared for an appeal. Other categories of charges must be listed separately.

ACS will normally process payment within 20 calendar days after the transcript is accepted, which could be up to 10 working days after receipt. As stated in section 1.6.2, any costs incurred by ACS in correcting or returning a transcript for correction will be deducted from the final payment for the transcript.

1.8 Timeliness

1.8.1 Timeliness Required: Transcripts must be submitted within the time specified in this section. A Contractor will be paid for a late transcript if it is otherwise acceptable; however, the late transcript will be treated as a rejection and may result in a penalty of \$0.15 per page for subsequent late transcripts.

³ This formula is based on a sample of 5% of the total transcript. If the sample actually reviewed is smaller or larger than 5% of the total transcript, the formula will be adjusted accordingly.

Under section 1.10.1 two rejected transcripts within a six-month period, or three rejected transcripts within a one-year period, may result in termination of the contract. A partial transcript, though timely submitted, will be treated as a rejection.

- 1.8.2 **Deadlines for Completion:** 30-day work is due within 30 calendar days, 15-day work within 15 calendar days, and 7-day work is due within seven calendar days. These deadlines are measured from the date the transcript is assigned to the Contractor or the date the audio is uploaded to the Contractor, whichever is later. A transcript is assigned on the date the Transcript Coordinator notifies the Contractor that the work is available.

A transcript is timely if the completed transcript is delivered to ACS on or before 4:30 p.m. Alaska Time (AKT) on the due date.

Corrected transcripts must be returned to the transcript coordinator within the following deadlines:

30-day work: The corrected transcript is due within ten calendar days after the transcript is returned to the Contractor. If the transcript contains only format errors, the corrected transcript is due within five calendar days after the transcript is returned.

15-day work: The corrected transcript is due within five calendar days after the transcript is returned to the Contractor.

7-day work: The corrected transcript is due within three calendar days after the transcript is returned to the Contractor.

Under exceptional circumstances, the Transcript Coordinator may, upon request, authorize a longer period of time for completion of the corrected transcript.

A transcript is considered returned to the Contractor on the date the Contractor is notified that the transcript is unacceptable. A corrected transcript is timely if the transcript is delivered to the Transcript Coordinator on or before 4:30 p.m. Alaska Time (AKT) on the due date.

- 1.8.3 **Extensions:** A Contractor is entitled to five extensions during each year of the contract⁴. An extension may not exceed five business days. If the Contractor exceeds the allowable number of extensions, any transcript turned in after the due date will be treated as late. A late transcript is treated as a rejection and may be grounds for termination under 1.10.1.

To take an extension under this Section, the Contractor must contact the Transcript Coordinator in writing before the date the transcript is due and schedule a new due date for the transcript. Otherwise, the transcript will be treated as late. As stated in section 1.8.1, a late transcript is treated as a rejection.

1.9 **Delivery and Delivery Costs**

- 1.9.1 **Delivery of Completed Transcript:** Unless otherwise specified by ACS, completed transcripts must be emailed to the Transcript Coordinator.
- 1.9.2 **Returned Transcript:** If a transcript is returned to the Contractor for correction, the Contractor must resubmit the corrected transcript to ACS via email.

1.10 **Termination of Contract**

- 1.10.1 ACS has the right to terminate the contract if, over the life of the contract, including all extensions,
- (1) more than eight transcripts must be returned for correction of errors, including major errors under Section 1.6.2 and format errors, under Section 1.6.3, or

⁴ If a Contractor has ten cases due on the same day and the Contractor requests a three-day extension for all ten cases, this would be treated as one extension, not ten extensions.

- (2) two transcripts are rejected within a six-month period, or three transcripts are rejected within a one-year period, or
- (3) ACS learns of disclosure of confidential information received by a Contractor or its employees in the course of transcribing, or
- (4) the Contractor received written notice from ACS of a material breach of the contract and fails to cure the breach within a reasonable amount of time as determined by ACS Transcript Coordinator, or
- (5) the Contractor submits a transcript and the ACS doesn't have a signed certificate on file from any person who transcribed a portion of the transcript, or
- (6) the Contractor fails to submit a completed background check form by an employee or subcontractor prior to the time that the employee or subcontractor first prepares a transcript, or fails to immediately report criminal charges pending against the Contractor, a principal or officer of the Contractor, or an employee or subcontractor of the Contractor, or
- (7) a Primary Contractor fails to complete the mandatory minimum pages they contracted for each month.

1.10.2 ACS will allow a brief grace period for new Contractors to become familiar with ACS's transcribing standards and format requirements. Therefore, in determining the number of transcripts that have been returned for correction by new Contractors who have not previously prepared transcripts for ACS, ACS will not count the first two transcripts that are returned.

1.10.3 If the contract is terminated, the Contractor may be disqualified from the list of approved transcribers and, if so, will not be eligible to provide transcript services for ACS for a period of at least six months from the date of termination.

1.10.4 **Appeal:** A Contractor may request that the Clerk of the Appellate Courts review a decision by either the Transcript Coordinator, or another ACS employee, rejecting a transcript or terminating the contract.

1.11 Quality of Record

1.11.1 **Bad Audio:** If a Contractor encounters bad audio, the Contractor should immediately contact the Transcript Coordinator. If the audio is replaced, the deadline for completion of the transcript will be extended by the time necessary to make the replacement and deliver it to the Contractor.⁵

If the Transcript Coordinator determines that the quality of the audio is significantly below average, the Transcript Coordinator may grant a "bad audio extension", which will not count toward the Contractor's extension limit. The Transcript Coordinator will determine the length of an extension. A bad audio extension should be requested at least three days prior to the deadline for submitting the transcript.

1.11.2 **Additional compensation:** Except in extraordinary and compelling circumstances, a Contractor is not entitled to additional compensation because of poor quality audio. Respondents may contact the Transcript Coordinator to obtain sample recordings of court proceedings around the State.

1.11.3 **Refusal to Prepare Transcript:** If the Transcript Coordinator concludes that the audio quality is so poor that additional compensation is warranted, a Primary Contractor may decline to prepare the transcript in lieu of accepting additional compensation. A Primary Contractor may not otherwise decline work based on audio quality.

1.12 Qualification of Respondents

1.12.1 **Business License:** Prior to the award of a contract, a bidder must hold a valid Alaska business license. Bidders should contact the **Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, PO Box 110806, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806**, for information on these licenses. Acceptable evidence that the bidder possesses a valid Alaska business license may consist of any one of the following:

⁵ If audio is replaced, the Transcript Coordinator will decide how much additional time will be allowed to complete the transcript.

- copy of an Alaska business license;
- certification on the bid that the bidder has a valid Alaska business license and has included the license number in the bid;
- a canceled check for the Alaska business license fee;
- a copy of the Alaska business license application with a receipt stamp from the state's occupational licensing office; or
- a sworn and notarized statement that the bidder has applied and paid for the Alaska business license.

1.12.2 **Experience:** Respondents must provide proof that they have at least two years of experience in the preparation of court transcripts or other comparable transcribing work. ACS will determine the extent to which other transcribing work is deemed to be “comparable”.⁶

1.12.3 **Sample Transcript:** Respondents who are not currently providing transcription services to ACS, or whose contract was terminated, are required to submit a sample transcript prepared from audio provided by ACS. The sample should meet the requirements set forth in the Manual of Transcript Procedures. The audio sample may be obtained from the ACS Transcript Coordinator at kamand@akcourts.gov. The sample is to be submitted to the Transcript Coordinator and approved prior to submitting the solicitation response. If the first sample doesn't meet the standards outlined in Section 1.6.2, there will be a 30-day waiting period before you can resubmit. If the second sample doesn't meet the standards, there will be a 60-day waiting period. Failure to meet the standards a third time will result in a one-year waiting period. Exception to this is during the initial posting period for inclusion in the initial list of contractors before Friday, February 17, 2023. During that time you will be allowed to submit a sample for approval twice. If the second sample doesn't meet the standards, there will be a 30-day waiting period.

1.12.4 **References:** Respondents who have not previously performed transcription services for the ACS, have not had three transcripts accepted by ACS within the last two years or whose contract for such services has been terminated, must provide no fewer than three business references who can verify the quality and reliability of the transcriber's work in preparing court transcripts or other comparable transcribing work.

1.12.5 **Confidentiality:** Transcribers must agree to comply with confidentiality guidelines on any transcript of confidential court proceedings. A signed confidentiality certificate must be provided to ACS for every employee of the Contractor, and every employee of any subcontractor hired by the Contractor, who performs work related to ACS transcripts prior to performing work.

1.13 **Response Method**

1.13.1 **Response Options:** There are three types of work: 30-day, 15-day, and 7-day work. Respondents may sign up for any one, two, or all three types of work. Respondents wishing to be listed as a Primary Contractor may submit a response for a portion of the monthly base requirement for each category of work, subject to the following minimums and maximums.⁷

Minimum:
 30-day work.....1,000 pages
 15-day work.....250 pages
 7-day work.....250 pages

Maximum:
 30-day work.....2,000 pages
 15-day work.....1,000 pages
 7-day work.....500 pages

⁶ Transcribing from dictation is not deemed comparable to transcribing court proceedings.

⁷ For example, in Item 11 on the Response Sheet, a Contractor could respond for 1,000 pages of 30-day work and 250 pages of 7-day work, but the response could not be for 500 pages of 30-day work and 500 pages of 7-day work because the minimum response for 30 day work is 1,000 pages. The response could also not be for 3,000 pages of 30-day work because the maximum response for 30-day work is 2,000 pages.

Because the transcript needs of ACS vary from month to month, a contract award is not a guarantee of a minimum number of pages per month. If the ACS's transcript needs in a particular month are less than the monthly base requirement, work will be assigned to the next Primary Contractor on the list of Primary Contractors for that category of work, subject to the reservation of ACS's right to deviate from that rotation if, in the professional judgment of the Transcript Coordinator it is in the best interest of the operational needs of the ACS.

- 1.13.2 **Assignment of work to Overage Contractors:** If ACS's transcript needs in a particular month exceed the monthly base requirement, ACS will assign the additional work first to Primary Contractors and then to Overage Contractors on a rotating basis. Such assignments shall be subject to the reservation of ACS's right to deviate from that rotation if, in the professional judgment of the Transcript Coordinator it is in the best interest of the operational needs of the ACS.

Any respondent on the overage list that declines to take work twice within a six-month period or three times within a one-year period will then go to the bottom of the list or will be terminated from the contract.

- 1.13.3 A Primary Contractor may not decline work unless the Contractor has already been assigned the quantity of work that the Contractor agreed to accept. In assigning work to Primary Contractors, ACS will make reasonable efforts to accommodate family emergencies, illness, and vacation schedules.

1.14 **Conviction for a Serious Crime**

- 1.14.1 Respondents may not be eligible for award if the respondent or a principal or officer of the respondent has been convicted of a serious crime. In determining whether or not the respondent is eligible for award, ACS may consider the nature and gravity of the offense or offenses; the time that has passed since the conviction and/or completion of the sentence; and any other fact or circumstance which may have a bearing on the suitability of the respondent to perform a contract awarded pursuant to this solicitation.

Failure of a respondent to disclose a conviction as required shall be an automatic bar to award of a contract.

- 1.14.2 Background checks will be conducted as part of the solicitation process. Complete this section and the background check form on page 14, as failure to do so will result in rejection of your response. Respondents who have prior convictions that have been set aside under the terms of a suspended imposition of sentence (SIS), or who have received an unconditional pardon for prior convictions, may answer "no" to these questions. If you are not sure if your situation requires disclosure, please contact the Transcript Coordinator. ACS reserves the right to confirm all background information.
- 1.14.3 A conviction is not an automatic bar from award of contract. However, in some cases written approval from the Clerk of the Appellate Courts may be required depending on the nature of the offense.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes No

Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor? Yes No

If you answered "yes" to either of the above questions, **please provide detailed information about the convictions(s) on a separate sheet of paper**, including date, location, and nature of offense and disposition. This information will be used in determining whether written approval from the Clerk of the Appellate Courts is required. Pending charges must be reported immediately upon the commencement of assignment of work.

- 1.14.4 A respondent may not use an employee or a subcontractor to prepare a transcript if that person has been convicted of a serious crime, unless written approval is first obtained from the Clerk of the Appellate Courts. Prior to the preparation of a transcript by another person, that person must complete and submit a copy of the background check form on page 15.

In determining whether or not the employee or subcontractor may prepare a transcript, ACS may consider the nature and gravity of the offense or offenses; the time that has passed since the conviction and/or completion of the sentence; and any other fact or circumstance which may have a bearing on the suitability of the employee or subcontractor to prepare a transcript.

Failure of a respondent to submit a background check form completed by an employee prior to the time that the employee or subcontractor first prepares a transcript shall give ACS the right to terminate the contract.

- 1.14.5 Once placed on either the Primary or Overage list, the Contractor has a continuing obligation to notify the Transcript Coordinator of new criminal charges filed against the Contractor, against any principal or officer of the Contractor, or against any employee or subcontractor who is used to prepare a transcript by the Contractor.
- 1.14.6 "Serious Crime" means any crime that is or would be a felony in the State of Alaska. It also includes any lesser crime, a necessary element of which, as determined by the statutory or common law definition of such crime, involves misconduct as a public official, interference with the administration of justice, false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, deceit, bribery, corruption, extortion, misappropriation, theft, or an attempt or a conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit a "serious crime".

1.15 **Submission of Responses**

1.15.1 **The following information must be included with the response:**

- (1) Completed and signed Cover sheet on the first page of this solicitation.
- (2) Completed and signed Response Sheet on page 13.
- (3) Completed and signed Background Check Forms.
- (4) Proof of experience referred to in section 1.12.2.
- (5) Proof of acceptance of sample transcript referred to in section 1.12.3.
- (6) References referred to in section 1.12.4, if applicable.
- (7) Confidentiality certificate on Page 16 and referred to in section 1.12.5.
- (8) A clear indication on the Response Sheet whether the respondent wishes to be listed as a Primary Contractor or an Overage Contractor.
- (9) Acknowledgement that ACS holds complete ownership rights to all court transcripts and will photocopy and distribute transcripts without any additional payments to transcribers.

- 1.15.2 **Response Method:** Responses may be mailed, hand delivered, faxed, or emailed to Jesse Head, Purchasing Department. The respondent is responsible for ensuring that a complete, legible response is received. You may confirm receipt by contacting Jesse Head.

RESPONSE SHEET

1. Respondent Business Name _____
2. Business Address _____
3. Business Phone _____ Fax _____
4. Email address _____
5. Evidence of current Alaska Business License: Attached _____
6. Proof of Experience: Attached _____
7. Verification of approved Sample Transcript:
Attached _____ Not required* _____ Reason _____
8. References:
Attached _____ Not required* _____ Reason _____
9. Signed Confidentiality Form: Attached _____
10. Signed and completed Background Check Forms: Attached _____
11. Indicate one or more categories of work for which you wish to be considered. If you indicate an interest in being a Primary Contractor, you must also indicate the number of pages per month you will accept.**
 Primary Contractor for 30-day work @ _____ pages per month.
 Overage Contractor for 30-day work
 Primary Contractor for 15-day work @ _____ pages per month.
 Overage Contractor for 15-day work
 Primary Contractor for 7-day work @ _____ pages per month.
 Overage Contractor for 7-day work
12. I understand that ACS holds complete ownership rights to court transcripts and will photocopy transcripts without any additional compensation to me.
13. I am the duly authorized representative for the above-listed business. My name and title is _____

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the terms and condition of the Solicitation, and that, if accepted as a transcriber for ACS, I will abide by the terms and conditions of this Solicitation.

Date _____ Signature _____

* Respondents whose previous contract(s) with ACS were terminated must provide a sample transcript and three current references. Respondents who have had three transcripts accepted within the last two years by ACS are not required to provide new samples or current references.

** This number must conform to the requirements of Section 1.13.1 of the Solicitation.

RESPONDENTS BACKGROUND CHECK FORM

Section 1. Authorization for Background Check (to be completed by the Respondent)

I understand that part of the solicitation process includes criminal history investigations of Respondents and any principals or officers of Respondents. By my signature below, I authorize the ACS to conduct an investigation into my criminal history and authorize any former or current employer, person, firm, corporation, government agency, police organization, or any other organizations to release to the ACS any pertinent information they may have regarding such history.

I release all persons or entities from all liability for any damage that may result from furnishing information to the ACS. I also release the ACS and all its employees from all liability for any damage that may result from the ACS's reliance on the information furnished.

_____ Signature
 Full Name (First, Middle Initial & Last) of Respondent, or Principal or Officer of the Respondent (Print)

List all States of residence, former and current

_____ Social Security Number _____ Date of Birth _____ Date

Names Previously Used

Section 2. Request for Criminal Conviction History Check (to be completed by the Purchasing Office)

This is to request that a criminal conviction history check be performed on the above Respondent to the Transcription Services Solicitation.

_____ Signature of Purchasing Officer
 Printed Name of Purchasing Officer

_____ Date
 Phone Number _____ Fax Number

Section 3. Criminal Conviction History Check

Checks conducted: APSIN NCIC NLETS for the State(s) of _____

Results of check: No record of convictions.
 Record of convictions (attached)

_____ Date
 Alaska Court System APSIN TSO

ALASKA COURT SYSTEM
Statewide Transcript Office

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF CONFIDENTIAL TRANSCRIPTS

Re: Solicitation ACS-NOS-23-002 - Transcription Services

NOTICE: In preparing confidential transcripts, you must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. You must not discuss anything about the cases with anyone, except to make arrangements for preparation, copying, or delivery of the transcripts.
2. Materials relating to confidential cases must not be shown or given to anyone, except
 - a. employees of the Statewide Transcript Office (or other designated ACS employee).
 - b. the people preparing or proofreading the transcripts.
 - c. the people copying the transcripts.
 - d. the people delivering the transcripts to you or the court system.
3. Materials relating to the cases must not be left unattended and must be secured to main confidentiality.
4. If any person or persons involved in the cases are known to you, you must immediately notify the Transcript Coordinator and you must not continue to work on the transcripts unless authorized to do.
5. All materials relating to the cases must be returned to ACS upon completion of the transcript. Upon acceptance of the transcripts by the court, you must delete and erase all computer files relating to the transcripts.
6. Drafts and other unofficial copies of the transcripts must be destroyed by shredding or other means that will insure imprints or copies cannot be read. No materials relating to preparation of the transcripts may be discarded in readable form.

The following certificate covers all confidential transcripts for the duration of your contract with the Alaska Court System and commencing with the contract period starting March 13, 2023.

Certificate of Compliance

I certify that I will follow these guidelines in preparing confidential transcripts for the duration of my contract with the Alaska Court System. I understand that I am prohibited from disclosing or discussing any aspect of these cases with anyone, and that my failure to comply with this obligation may disqualify me and any company I work for from doing further transcribing for the Alaska Court System.

I also understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that a confidential certificate is filed with the Alaska Court System for each of my employees or contractors involved in the preparation, proofreading, copying, and delivery of all confidential transcripts.

Date

Transcriber's Signature

Printed Name