

## STAFF REPORT

<b>BOARD MEETING DATE:</b>	March 11, 2025
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**CATEGORY:** Consent Calendar 4

**SUBJECT:** Approve an agreement with Sophia R. Meyer Law, P.C. for juvenile dependency appeals.

**DEPARTMENT:** County Counsel

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #:** All

**DEPARTMENT CONTACT:** Joseph Larmour, County Counsel, (530) 225-5711

**STAFF REPORT APPROVED BY:** Joseph Larmour, County Counsel

<b><u>Vote Required?</u></b>	<b><u>General Fund Impact?</u></b>
4/5 Vote	No Additional General Fund Impact

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve an agreement with Sophia R. Meyer Law, P.C. for the purpose of providing juvenile dependency appeals in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for the period three years effective date of signing.

### **DISCUSSION**

County Counsel is making efforts to hire additional staff; however, until such time as this is achieved, additional support is needed, particularly in the area of juvenile dependency appeals. Sophia Meyer and Cashel White, a partner in the firm, both have experience in juvenile dependency cases and operate a local office here in Redding. Ms. Meyer provided County Counsel a proposal that demonstrated background and experience in child dependency, public guardian/conservator, and currently represents two counties in dependency matters. Ms. Meyer has years' experience in providing well rounded, conflict free representation and charges a reasonable rate of \$200 per hour.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Board may choose not to approve the agreement. This is not recommended because the County has pending appeals that require representation.

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

Risk Management has approved the agreement. County Counsel has approved the agreement as to form. The Recommendation has been approved the County Administrative Office.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no additional General Fund impact from this agreement. There are sufficient appropriations included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 adopted budget for the costs of this agreement and a request for appropriations will be included in future budget requests.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1: PSA: Meyer Law