July 30, 2019

Dear Contract Administrator – (**DP/Mitigator ONLY)**

On February 22, 2019 the Public Defense Services Commission (PDSC) unanimously adopted a resolution to move away from the current case-credit model, and directed Executive Director Lane Borg to provide the PDSC with recommendations for a new contracting model. This change came about in part due to the Sixth Amendment Center study and report commissioned by the Legislature and the Office of Public Defense Services (OPDS). The requirement to change the contracting model and the unknowns during the 2019 legislative session required OPDS to wait until the end of session to move forward with the contracting process for 2020-21 contracts. In addition, we anticipate SB 1013 will become law which will significantly impact the number of new aggravated murder cases as well as the standards of representation for future Murder 1 cases. Furthermore, we anticipate a need for mitigation in juvenile waiver cases.

This letter serves as notice that OPDS intends to amend and extend your current contract for six (6) months. This amendment and extension removes the hourly quota and the scheduled monthly payment for attorneys. Attorneys will submit a detailed monthly report that itemizes time worked on each case by day and in tenths of hours. Mitigation Investigators will continue to submit a detailed monthly report that itemizes time worked on each case by day and in tenths of hours. Additionally, we will apply a five percent increase to the hourly rate.

You will receive a contract from OPDS by September 20th. Please return the singed contract by October 10th.