



Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

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Christian and Jewish Funeral/Burial Services – Hudson Valley DDSOO– HV 033022

Questions and Answers:

Below is a compilation of the questions received for this bid. Questions that were repeated, or of a recurring nature, were consolidated. Thank you very much for your interest.

1. Question: What were the previous bids submitted for this procurement?

Answer: Please see the attachment, “Bid results request (IFB HV 122921)” containing the full results from the most recent bid process for these services.

2. Question: What were the previous contracts for these services? Please provide a copy.

Answer: Please see the attachments, “Christian Funeral Services contract (with Amendment #1)” and “Jewish Funeral Services contract (with Amendment #1).”

3. Question: Local Removal is defined by the Department of Health Bureau of Funeral Directing as "The transfer of remains to the funeral establishment including personnel, equipment and vehicle" within a set increment as shown on your New York State General Price List. This can be 5, 10, 12, 15, 20 miles etc.. This leaves the "Transportation (per mile cost)" vulnerable and unregulated.

Answer: The bidder is to place their price as they feel is appropriate. These services will be awarded to the bidder that is responsive, reliable, and provides the lowest cost. OPWDD will only pay for services rendered as required.

4. Question: Westchester and Rockland County do not charge for public death notices in the LoHud Newspapers, but Orange County's Times Herald Record is the main publication and charges for even the smallest death notice. How should a bidder bid?

Answer: The bidder is to place their price as they feel is appropriate. These services will be awarded to the bidder that is responsive, reliable, and provides the lowest cost. OPWDD will only pay for services rendered as required.

5. Question: In an Orthodox Jewish case, cosmetology would be strictly forbidden after the spiritual washing is performed. How should a bidder bid on this line?

Answer: As per the scope of work, “OPWDD recognizes that the provision of funeral and related services entails a variety of issues. The immediate issue is the final disposition of the deceased in a manner conforming to their religious beliefs.” These services will be awarded to the bidder that is responsive, reliable, and provides the lowest cost.

6. **Question: For the Arrangements section in the cost proposal form: Are you asking how much the fee is to have a funeral director present for those particular parts of the funeral service, or how much the fee is for the funeral director to arrange them?"**

Answer: The bidder is to place their price for arranging the viewing and to supervise for the "viewing (2 hours)" listed in row 13.

7. **Question: Pallbearer only appears on lot 1, the Christian funeral services side, and is found nowhere in lot # 2 Jewish.**

Answer: Pallbearers for Jewish Funeral/Burial Services can be found on page 28, row 15.

8. **Question: Cremation is only shown on lot # 1 Christian Funerals and does not appear on lot # 2 Jewish funerals - why is cremation only available to lot # 1 Christian Funerals?**

Answer: OPWDD will defer to the decision of the individual (or family of the individual) when it comes to these services. Historically, a very limited number of OPWDD individuals of the Jewish faith choose to be cremated. If any were to be requested these services would be paid outside of the contract.

9. **Question: Lot 1, line E asks for our "cremation price." How does OPWDD define "cremation price?"**

Answer: "Cremation price" refers to the price of cremating the body and any services that may be directly involved. All items and services are to be billed as needed. It is solely the responsibility of the bidder to take these factors into consideration before placing a price for any/all services. OPWDD will only pay for services rendered as required.

Respectfully,



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