



MEMO

To: Montana State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian
Subject: Legal Services Support
Date: October 1, 2025

In a July 23, 2025 letter from Will Selph, Chief of Staff to Attorney General Austin Knudsen, the Montana State Library (MSL) learned that the Department of Justice intended to discontinue operating the Agency Legal Services Bureau effective August 22, 2025. This decision came as a surprise to everyone in the executive branch, including those agencies that relied on the ALSB for legal support, the Governor's Office, and the Department of Administration (DOA) most notably because, in late June, we signed a memorandum of agreement for services for fiscal year '26.

MSL's primary need for legal services is for contract and procurement review. That review is now being provided by attorneys at the DOA Office of Procurement.

Additionally, we require legal services throughout the process to revise administrative rules prescribed in the Montana Administrative Procedures Act. This legal support is currently being provided by the Governor's Office.

Until or unless DOA determines a more permanent solution, MSL will direct all other requests for legal support to DOA.