

**CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN ALACHUA COUNTY AND  
CEDARS BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC, NO. 13572**

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is made by and between Alachua County, Florida, a political subdivision and charter county of the State of Florida, by and through its Board of County Commissioners (the “County”) and Cedars Business Services, LLC, a limited liability company which is authorized to do business in the State of Florida (“Contractor”), who are collectively referred to as the “Parties”.

**WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the County publicly issued Request for Proposal 23-52 seeking qualified firms or individuals to provide Annual Creditor Collection Services; and

**WHEREAS**, after evaluating and considering all timely responses to the solicitation, the County identified Contractor as top ranked entity in the solicitation process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Contractor is willing to provide work and services to the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County desires to engage Contractor to provide the work and services described herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises and covenants contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is acknowledged, the County and Contractor agree as follows:

1. **Recitals**. The foregoing recitals are incorporated herein.
2. **Scope of Services/Work**. In accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, Contractor agrees to provide and perform Annual Creditor Collection Services, as more particularly described in the Scope of Services/Work attached hereto as **Exhibit “1”** and incorporated herein (“Services”), for and as needed by the County. It is understood that the Services may be modified, but to be effective and binding, any such modification must be in writing executed by both the Parties.
3. **Term**. This Agreement is effective upon execution by both Parties (“effective date”) and continues until the September 30, 2024, unless earlier terminated as provided herein. This Agreement may be amended at the option of the County for two (2) additional two (2) year term(s) at the same terms and conditions outlined herein.
4. **Qualifications**. By executing this Agreement, Contractor makes the following representations to County:
  - A. Contractor is qualified to provide the Services and will maintain all certifications, permits and licenses necessary to provide the Services during the term of this Agreement.
  - B. Contractor will assure that all personnel who perform the Services, or perform any part of the Services, are competent, reliable, and experienced to perform their assigned task property and satisfactory. Contractor will perform the Services with the skill and care which would be exercised by a qualified contractor performing similar services at the time and place such services are performed. If failure to meet these standards results in a deficiency in the Services or the related tasks or designs, Contractor will, at his/her/its own cost and expense, re-do the Services to correct the deficiency, and shall be

- responsible for any and all consequential damages arising from the deficiency.
- C. Contractor is familiar with the Services and the conditions of the site, location, project, and specifics of the Services to be provided, designed or constructed.
  - D. Contractor will coordinate, cooperate, and work with any other contractors, professionals, and consultants retained by the County. The Parties acknowledge that there is nothing in this Agreement that precludes County from retaining services of other contractors, professionals, and consultants for similar or same Services or from independently performing the Services provided under this Agreement on its own.

5. **Payment.**

- A. The County will pay Contractor for timely and completed Services as described in this Agreement. The Parties agree that the amount to be paid to Contractor for the Services will be 21.26% of the Gross Collections made in accordance with **Exhibit 1** and not exceed \$50,000.00 annually.
- B. As a condition precedent for any payment, Contractor must submit monthly invoices to the County requesting payment for Services properly rendered and expenses due, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the County. Contractor's invoice must describe the Service rendered, the date performed [*and time expended, if billed by hour*], and the person(s) rendering such Services. Contractor's invoice shall be accompanied by documentation or data in support of expenses, as the County may require. The invoice shall additionally reflect the allocations as provided and shall state the percentage of completion as to each such allocation. Each invoice shall constitute the Contractor's representation to the County that the Services indicated have reached the level stated, have served a public purpose, have been properly and timely performed, that the expenses included in the invoice have been reasonably incurred in accordance with this Agreement, that all obligations of Contractor covered by prior invoices have been paid in full, and that the amount requested is currently due and owing. Submission of the Contractor's invoice for final payment shall further constitute the Contractor's representation to the County that, upon receipt by the Contractor of the amount invoiced, all obligations of the Contractor to others, including its subcontractors, will be paid in full. Contractor shall submit invoices to the County at the following address, unless otherwise directed by the County:

Alachua County Fire Rescue  
911 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

- C. County will make payment to Contractor of all sums properly invoiced under the provisions of this section in accordance with the provisions of the Florida Prompt Payment Act, Chapter 218, Part VII, Florida Statutes.
- D. If the County has reasonable cause to suspect that any representations of Contractor relating to payment are inaccurate, the County may withhold payment of sums then or in the future otherwise due to Contractor until the inaccuracy, and the cause thereof, is corrected to the County Manager's or his/her designee's reasonable satisfaction.
- E. The County's performance and obligation to pay under this Agreement is contingent upon a specific annual appropriation by the Alachua County Board of County

Commissioners (“Board”). The Parties hereto understand that this Agreement is not a commitment of future appropriations. Continuation of this Agreement beyond the term or the end of any County fiscal year shall be subject to both the appropriation and the availability of funds in accordance with Chapter 129, Florida Statutes; and that the failure of the Board to do so shall not constitute a breach or default of this Agreement.

F. In the event any part of this Agreement or the Services, is to be funded by Federal, State, or other local agency monies, Contractor hereby agrees to cooperate with the County in order to assure compliance with all requirements of the funding entity applicable to the use of the monies, including providing access to and the right to examine relevant documents related to the Service and as specifically required by the Federal or State granting agency, and receiving no payment until all required forms are completed and submitted.

7. **Insurance.** Contractor will procure and maintain insurance throughout the entire term of this Agreement, including any renewals, of the types and in the minimum amounts detailed in **Exhibit “2”** attached hereto and incorporated herein. A copy of a current Certificate of Insurance (COI) showing coverage of the type and in the amounts required is attached hereto as **Exhibit “2-A”**.

8. **County Property.** Contractor shall be responsible for clean-up and the removal of surplus materials and debris on the Service/work site. Contractor agrees to promptly, without delay, notify the County either in phone, email, or orally of any hazardous, dangerous, unsafe, or destructive conditions, trespassers, vandalism or damages that the Contractor or its employees, subcontractors, or agents notices or is made aware of on County property, including inside any County owned or used facility. Contractor shall be responsible for initiating, erecting, and maintaining safety precautions, programs and materials in connection with the Services on County Property, including any industry, federal, state or local standards and requirements, so as to prevent damages, injury or loss to persons and property. Should an employee or agent of the Contractor suffer injury or damage to its/his/her person or property, the Contractor shall notify the County within a reasonable time of the occurrence. The costs of any clean-up, spillage, and fines levied for failure to comply with these requirements will be borne solely by Contractor.

9. **Deliverables.** All project deliverables and documents are the sole property of County and may be used by County for any purpose. Any and all deliverables required by this Agreement to be prepared by Contractor, such as but not limited to plans and specifications, will be done in such a manner that they shall be accurate, coordinated and adequate for the purposes intended. Contractor represents that the deliverables prepared under this Agreement will meet the requirements of all applicable federal, state and local codes, laws, rules and regulations. The County’s review of the deliverables in no way diminishes the Contractor’s representations pertaining to the deliverables.

10. **Permits.** Contractor will obtain and pay for all necessary permits, permit application fees, licenses or any fees required for performing the Services.

11. **Alachua County Minimum Wage.** If, as determined by County, the Services to be performed pursuant to this Agreement are ‘Covered Services’, as defined under the Alachua County Government Minimum Wage Ordinance (“Wage Ordinance”), then during the term of this Agreement and any renewals, Contractor shall pay its ‘Covered Employees’, as defined in the Wage Ordinance, no less than the Alachua County Government Minimum Wage (“Minimum

Wage”), as may be amended by the County. Contractor will require the same of its subcontractors and subconsultants who provide the Services. If applicable to the Services, Contractor will certify this understanding, obligation, and commitment to County through a certification, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “3”**. Contractor will (a) post a copy of the Minimum Wage Rate in a prominent place of its principal place of business where it is easily seen by Covered Employees; (b) supply a copy to any Covered Employee upon request; (c) make any person submitting a bid for a subcontract for Covered Services aware of these requirements; and (d) include the necessary provisions in subcontracts to ensure compliance. The County shall not be deemed a necessary, or indispensable, party in any litigation between Contractor and subcontractor. At this time of execution of this Agreement, the prevailing Minimum Wage is as follows, which is subject to change during the term of this Agreement, and will be updated, and be applicable, without the necessary of amendment to this Agreement:

\$15.00 per hour with qualifying health benefits amounting to at least \$2.00 per hour	\$17.00 per hour without health benefits
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If applicable to the Services under this Agreement and to Contractor, the failure to comply with the provisions of the Wage Ordinance will be deemed a breach this Agreement and County is authorized to withhold payment of funds in accordance with Alachua County Code and Chapter 218, Florida Statutes.

## 12. **Default and Termination.**

- A. **Termination for Default:** The failure of Contractor to comply with any provision of this Agreement will place Contractor in default. If Contractor is in default or fails to perform in accordance with the terms or conditions of this Agreement, the County may provide a written notice of default. The County Manager and his/her designee is authorized to provide notice of default on behalf of County and notice may be sent electronically. If the default is not corrected within the allotted time as specifically provided in the notice of default, the County Manager is authorized to provide Contractor with written notice of termination of this Agreement on behalf of County. The effective date of termination of this Agreement will be the date specified in the notice of termination or, if no date is specified in the notice, then the effective date of termination will be the date that the notice of termination is received by the Contractor.
- B. **Termination for Convenience:** County may terminate the Agreement without cause by providing written notice of termination for convenience to the Contractor. County Manager and his/her designee is authorized to provide notice of termination on behalf of the County. Notice may be electronically given. Upon such notice, Contractor will immediately discontinue all Services for the County currently or to be provided to the County, unless the notice from the County directs otherwise. The effective date of termination of this Agreement will be the date specified in the notice of termination or, if not date specified in the notice, then the effective date of termination will be the date that the notice of termination is received by Contractor.
- C. Upon termination of this Agreement based upon the above, the County may obtain the Services from any other sources, firms, and individuals, and may use any method deemed in the County’s best interest. Upon termination, Contractor will deliver to

County all data, drawings, specifications, reports, estimates, summaries, and other records as may have been accumulated by Contractor in performing this Agreement, whether completed or in draft. In the event of termination, Contractor’s recovery against County shall be limited to that portion of this Agreement amount earned through the date of termination. Contractor shall not be entitled to any other or further recovery against County, including, but not limited to, damages, consequential or special damages, or any anticipated fees or profit on portions of the Services not performed.

13. **Indemnification.** CONTRACTOR HEREBY WAIVES AND RELEASES, AND AGREES TO PROTECT, DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS ALACHUA COUNTY AND ITS BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND ATTORNEYS (COLLECTIVELY “ALACHUA COUNTY”) FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, DEMANDS, PENALTIES, EXPENSES, AND CAUSES OF ACTION OF ANY AND EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND DAMAGES, INCLUDING ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND COSTS, BROUGHT AGAINST ALACHUA COUNTY RESULTING FROM ANY ACCIDENT, INCIDENT OR OCCURRENCE ARISING OUT OF OR IN CONNECTION WITH AN ACT, ERROR OR OMISSION OF CONTRACTOR OR CONTRACTOR’S EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS, AGENTS, ASSIGNS OR SUBCONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SERVICES SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT, INCLUDING ATTACHED EXHIBITS, OR FROM CONTRACTOR’S ENTRY ONTO ALACHUA COUNTY’S PROPERTY AND ANY AND ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON. This obligation shall in no way be limited in any nature by any limitation on the amount or type of Contractor’s insurance coverage. In the event the County is alleged to be liable on account of alleged acts or omissions, or both, of Contractor or Contractor’s employees, representatives or agents, then Contractor will investigate, respond to and provide a defense for any allegations and claims, at Contractor’s sole costs and expense. Furthermore, Contractor will pay all costs, fees and other expenses of any defense, including but not limited to, all attorneys’ fees, court costs and expert witness fees and expenses. Contractor and County will jointly cooperate with each other in the event of any litigation, including any request for documentation. This indemnification provision will survive the termination of this Agreement. Nothing contained herein shall constitute a waiver by the County of sovereign immunity or the provisions or limitation of liability of §768.28, Florida Statutes, as may be amended.

14. **Notice.** Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, any notice from either Party to the other Party must be in writing and delivered by hand delivery with receipt or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the addresses below. All notices will be deemed delivered five (5) business days after mailing. Each Party may change its mailing address by giving the other Party, written notice of election to change the address.

To Contractor:

To County:

Cedars Business Services LLC  
5230 Las Virgenes Rd, Ste. 2  
Calabasas, CA 91302

Alachua County Fire Rescue  
911 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gainesville, FL 32601

(757) 560-5801  
pmiller@cedarfinancial.com

(352) 384-3101  
mgh@alachuacounty.us

cc: With a copy electronically sent to:  
Alachua County Procurement, Attn:  
Contracts  
[acpur@alachuacounty.us](mailto:acpur@alachuacounty.us)  
Clerk of Court, Attn Finance & Accounting  
[dmw@alachuaclerk.org](mailto:dmw@alachuaclerk.org)

15. **Standard Clauses.**

A. **Public Records.** In accordance with §119.0701, Florida Statutes, Contractor, *when acting on behalf of the County*, shall, as required by Florida law:

1. Keep and maintain public records required by the County to perform the Services.
2. Upon request from the County's custodian of public records, provide the County with a copy of the requested records or allow the records to be inspected or copied within a reasonable time at a cost that does not exceed the cost provided in Florida law or as otherwise provided by law.
3. Ensure that public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements are not disclosed except as authorized by law for the duration of the term of this Agreement and following completion of the Agreement if Contractor does not transfer the records to the County.
4. Upon completion of the Agreement, transfer, at no cost, to the County all public records in possession of Contractor or keep and maintain public records required by the County to perform the Services. If Contractor transfers all public records to the County upon completion of the Agreement, Contractor shall destroy any duplicate public records that are exempt or confidential and exempt from public records disclosure requirements. If Contractor keeps and maintains public records upon completion of the Agreement, Contractor shall meet all applicable requirements for retaining public records. All records stored electronically must be provided to the County, upon request from the County's custodian of public records, in a format that is compatible with the County's information technology systems.

**IF CONTRACTOR HAS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CHAPTER 119, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO CONTRACTOR'S DUTY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RECORDS RELATING TO THIS CONTRACT, CONTACT THE COUNTY'S PUBLIC RECORDS CUSTODIAN AT [publicrecordsrequest@alachuacounty.us](mailto:publicrecordsrequest@alachuacounty.us) OR (352) 264-6906 OR 12 SE 1<sup>ST</sup> STREET, GAINESVILLE, FL 32601.**

If Contractor fails to comply with this section, Contractor will be deemed in default under this Agreement. The County may enforce as set forth in §119.0701, Florida Statutes. Contractor who fails to provide the public records in response to a request within a reasonable time may be

subject to penalties imposed under §119.10, Florida Statute, and costs of enforcement, including fees, under §119.0701 and §119.12, Florida Statutes.

Contractor will take reasonable measures to protect, secure and maintain any data held by Contractor in an electronic form that is or contains exempt, confidential, personal information or protected information, as defined by Florida or federal law, related to or in connection with performance of the Services. If Contractor suspects or becomes aware of a security breach or unauthorized access to such data by a third party, Contractor shall immediately notify the County in writing and will work, at Contractor's expense, to prevent or stop the data breach.

B. Confidential Information. During the term of this Agreement, Contractor may claim that some of Contractor's information, including, but not limited to, software documentation, manuals, written methodologies and processes, pricing, discounts, or other considerations (hereafter collectively referred to as "Confidential Information"), is, or has been treated as confidential and proprietary by Contractor in accordance with §812.081, Florida Statutes, or other law, and is exempt from disclosure under the Florida's public record laws. Contractor shall clearly identify and mark Confidential Information as "Confidential Information" or "CI" and the County shall use reasonable efforts to maintain the confidentiality of the Confidential Information that is clearly identified by Contractor. County will promptly notify Contractor in writing if the County receives a request for disclosure of Contractor's Confidential Information. Contractor may assert any exemption from disclosure available under applicable law or seek a protective order against disclosure from a court of competent jurisdiction. Contractor shall protect, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Alachua County and its commissioners, officers and employees from and against any claims, actions and judgments arising out of a request for disclosure of Confidential Information or relating to violation or infringement of trademark, copyright patent, trade secret or intellectual property right; however, the foregoing obligation shall not apply to County's misuse or modification of Contractor's Confidential Information in a manner not contemplated by this Agreement. Contractor shall investigate, handle, respond to, and defend, at Contractor's sole cost and expense, any such claim, even if any such claim is groundless, false, or fraudulent. Contractor shall pay for all costs and expenses related to such claim, including, but not limited to, payment of attorneys' fees, costs and expenses. If Contractor is not reasonably able to modify or otherwise secure for the County the right to continue using the good or product, Contractor shall remove the product and refund the County the amounts paid in excess of a reasonable rental for past use. Upon completion of this Agreement, the provisions of this paragraph shall continue to survive. Contractor releases the County from claims or damages related to disclosure by the County.

C. Auditing Rights and Information. County reserves the right to require the Contractor to submit to an audit, by any auditor of the County's choosing. Contractor shall provide access to all of its records, which relate directly or indirectly to this Agreement at its place of business during regular business hours. Contractor shall retain all records pertaining to this Agreement and upon request make them available to County for three (3) complete calendar years following expiration or termination of the Agreement. Contractor agrees to provide such assistance as may be necessary to facilitate the review or audit by the County to ensure compliance with applicable accounting and financial standards. If an audit inspection or examination pursuant to this section discloses overpricing or overcharges of any nature by the Contractor to the County, Contractor shall pay to County the Overcharged Amount which is defined as the total aggregate overcharged amount together with interest thereon (such interest to be established at the rate of 12% annum). Any adjustments or payments which must be made as a result of any such audit or inspection of the Contractor's invoices or records must be made. If the Overcharged Amount is

equal to or greater than \$50,000.00, Contractor shall pay to County the Overcharged Amount and the Audit Amount which is defined as the total aggregate of County's reasonable audit costs incurred as a result of its audit of Contractor. County may recover the Overcharged Amount and the Audit Amount, as applicable, from any amount due or owing to Contractor whether under this Agreement and any other agreement between Contractor and County. If such amounts owed to Contractor are insufficient to cover the Overcharged Amount and Audit Amount, as applicable, then Contractor hereby shall pay such remaining amounts to County. Payment is due within a reasonable amount of time, but in no event may the time exceed sixty (60) calendar days, from presentation of the County's audit findings to Contractor. In no event shall the Overcharged Amount or the Audit Amount be deemed a reimbursable cost of the work or Services. This provision is hereby considered to be included within, and applicable to, any subcontractor agreement entered into by the Contractor in performance of the Services under this Agreement. The access, inspection, copying and auditing rights shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

D. Laws & Regulations. Contractor will comply with all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, regulations, rules and code requirements applicable to the Services required by this Agreement, including, but not limited to, those requirements of The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the collection practices set by Florida law. Contractor is presumed to be familiar with all laws, ordinances, regulations, and rules that may in any way affect the work outlined in this Agreement. If Contractor is not familiar with laws, ordinances, rules and regulations, Contractor remains liable for any violation and all subsequent damages, penalties, or fines.

E. Governing Law and Venue. The laws of the State of Florida shall govern this Agreement and the duties and obligations stated within this Agreement. Sole and exclusive venue for all actions arising under this Agreement shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in and for Alachua County, Florida.

F. Amendment and Assignment. The Parties may only modify or amend this Agreement by a mutual written agreement of the Parties. Neither Party will assign or transfer any interest in this Agreement without prior written consent of the other Party. The County and Contractor each bind the other and their respective successors and assigns in all respects to all of the terms, conditions, covenants, and provisions of this Agreement.

G. Additional Services. Additional services not specifically identified in this Agreement may be added to the Agreement upon execution of a written amendment by the Parties.

H. Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement does not create any relationship with, or any rights in favor of, any third party.

I. Independent Contractor. In the performance of this Agreement, Contractor is acting in the capacity of an independent contractor and not as an agent, employee, partner, joint venturer, or associate of the County. Contractor is solely responsible for the means, method, technique, sequence, and procedure utilized by Contractor in the full performance of the Services referenced in this Agreement.

J. E-Verify. Contractor shall utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the Contractor during the term of the Agreement. Contractor shall expressly require any subcontractors performing work or providing Services under this Agreement to utilize the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's E-Verify system to verify the employment eligibility of all new employees hired by the subcontractor during the term of this Agreement. The E-Verify system is located at <https://www.uscis.gov/E-Verify>



K. Conflict of Interest. Contractor warrants that neither Contractor nor any of Contractor's employees have any financial or personal interest that conflicts with the execution of this Agreement. The Contractor shall notify County of any conflict of interest due to any other clients, contracts, or property interests.

L. Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. As required by §287.055(6), Florida Statutes, the Contractor warrants that he or she has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Contractor to solicit or secure this Agreement and that he or she has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the Contractor any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. If Contractor breaches this provision, the County has the right to termination this Agreement without liability, and at the County's discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, gift or consideration.

M. Force Majeure. The Parties will exercise every reasonable effort to meet their respective duties under this Agreement but will not be liable for delays resulting from force majeure or other causes beyond their reasonable control, including, but not limited to, compliance with any government laws or regulation, acts of nature, fires, strikes, national disasters, wars, riots, transportation problems and any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of the Parties. Any such cause will reasonably extend the performance of the delayed duty to the extent of the delay so incurred and so agreed by the Parties.

N. Public Entity Crimes. A person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction of a public entity crime may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in Florida Statutes, Section 287.017 for Category Two for a period of thirty-six (36) months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

O. Collusion. By signing this Agreement, Contractor declares that this Agreement is made without any previous understanding, agreement, or connections with any persons, contractors or corporations and that this Agreement is fair, and made in good faith without any outside control, collusion, or fraud.

P. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of and by the different Parties hereto on separate counterparts, each of which when so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument. Receipt via email with pdf attachment by a party or its designated legal counsel of an executed counterpart of this Amendment shall constitute valid and sufficient delivery in order to complete execution and delivery of this Amendment and bind the Parties to the terms hereof.

Q. Severability and Ambiguity. It is understood and agreed by the Parties that if any of the provisions of the Agreement shall contravene or be invalid under the laws of the State of Florida, such contravention or invalidity shall not invalidate the entire Agreement, but it shall be construed as if not containing the particular provision(s) held to be invalid, and the rights and obligations of the Parties shall be construed and enforced accordingly. This Agreement shall not be construed more strictly against one Party than against the other Party, merely due to fact that it may have been prepared by one of the Parties. Each Party represents and agrees that it has had the opportunity to seek the advice of appropriate professionals, including legal counsel, in the review and execution of this Agreement.

R. Electronic Signatures. The Parties agree that an electronic version of this Agreement shall have the same legal effect and enforceability as a paper version. The Parties

further agree that this Agreement, regardless of whether in electronic or paper form, may be executed by use of electronic signatures. Electronic signatures shall have the same legal effect and enforceability as manually written signatures. Delivery of this Agreement or any other document contemplated hereby bearing an manually written or electronic signature, by electronic mail in “portable document format” (“.pdf”) form, or by any other electronic means intended to preserve the original graphic and pictorial appearance of a document, will have the same effect as physical delivery of the paper document bearing an original or electronic signature.

S. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire Agreement and supersedes all prior written or oral agreements, understandings, or representations of the Parties.

16. **Business Associate Agreement**. The Parties acknowledge that Contractor may receive protected health information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) and other information which is afford protections from the County, as a Covered Entity. As a result, the Contractors shall comply with the terms and conditions of the Business Associate Agreement (BAA) attached to this Agreement as **Exhibit 4**, and incorporated herein.

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**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the Parties have caused this Agreement to be executed on the respective dates under each signature: the County, through the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners, who is authorized to sign and by Contractor, through its duly authorized representative.

**ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

DocuSigned by:  
By: Michele Lieberman  
0F708449BF5743D...

Michele Lieberman, County Manager


Date: 12/7/2022

**APPROVED AS TO FORM**

DocuSigned by:  
Diana Johnson  
9E797AC46776481...

Alachua County Attorney's Office

**CONTRACTOR**

By: 

Print: Alan Fassonaki

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 10/27/2022

**IF THE CONTRACTOR IS NOT A NATURAL PERSON, PLEASE PROVIDE A CERTIFICATE OF INCUMBENCY AND AUTHORITY, OR A CORPORATE RESOLUTION, LISTING THOSE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS ON BEHALF OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. IF ARE A NATURAL PERSON, THEN YOUR SIGNATURE MUST BE NOTARIZED.**

## **Exhibit 1: Scope of Services/Work**

1. General Requirements: The Contractor shall provide Annual Creditor Collection Services. The services include the, but not limited to the following
  - 1.1. Legal - Contractor shall evaluate appropriate delinquent accounts to determine potential for recovery through litigation and make recommendations to the County. Upon authorization by the Alachua County Attorney's Office, the Contractor will proceed with the collection litigation process. Court fees associated with filing to pursue litigation are the responsibility of the County. Other legal fees and costs will not be assessed or paid by the County.
  - 1.2. Collection Methodology - The Contractor shall utilize a Collection Methodology that has been reviewed and approved by the County.
  - 1.3. The County may revoke an account placement at any time by providing written notice to the Contractor.
  - 1.4. Format for Status Reports should be as follows:
    - 1.4.1. Client or Citizen Name, Account #, Payments Received, Balance Payer Name
  - 1.5. 100% of the recovery percentage should be provided to the County. The County will remit Contractor's fee back to the Contractor. The Contractor should submit a uniform fee for all type accounts.
  - 1.6. The reports detailing patient information with charge/payment history will be provided to the Contractor electronically with PC Plus for Windows – ASCII format.
2. Ambulance Billings Delinquent Accounts
  - 2.1. Receive delinquent emergency medical service accounts on a monthly basis from the Alachua County Fire Rescue Department by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month (subject to change).
  - 2.2. County may retain inactive accounts at County's discretion.
  - 2.3. Ensure that each assignment is accompanied by a statement of the account and any historical information in a format approved by the County.
  - 2.4. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
  - 2.5. All costs associated with collection activities, except for the fees associated with filing to pursue litigation are the responsibility of the Contractor.

- 2.6. Receive payments for each individual account assigned until collection is determined to be complete. This determination is to be made jointly by the County and the Contractor. The Contractor shall collect delinquent payments and remit payment to the County on a periodic basis. The periodic basis will not exceed thirty (30) days.
- 2.7. Receive electronic transfer of delinquent accounts from the Fire Rescue Department.
- 2.8. Refrain from utilizing any methods or tactics which will reflect negatively on the image of Alachua County.
- 2.9. The Contractor is permitted to examine patient demographical and financial information as prepared and generated in reports submitted by Fire Rescue as it relates to the assigned accounts, but will not be allowed to access medical records.
- 2.10. Reports shall be submitted as follows. County may revoke an account placement at any time by providing written notice to Contractor.
  - 2.10.1. Paid In Full Accounts
    - 2.10.1.1. Monthly to Fire Rescue and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 2.10.2. Uncollectible Accounts
    - 2.10.2.1. Monthly to Fire Rescue and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 2.10.3. Status Reports
    - 2.10.3.1. Monthly to Fire Rescue and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
3. Environmental Protection Fees:
  - 3.1. Receive delinquent environmental protection fee accounts on an as needed basis from the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department.
  - 3.2. Ensure that each assignment is accompanied by a statement of the account and any historical information in a format approved by the County.
  - 3.3. All costs associated with collection activities, except for the fees associated with filing to pursue litigation are the responsibility of the Contractor.
  - 3.4. Receive payments for each individual account assigned until collection is determined to be complete. This determination is to be made jointly by the County and the Contractor. The Contractor shall collect delinquent payments and remit payment to the County on a periodic basis. The periodic basis, shall at a minimum, be every ninety (90) days.

- 3.5. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
- 3.6. Refrain from utilizing any methods or tactics which will reflect negatively on the image of Alachua County.
- 3.7. Refer any inquiries regarding compliance with the County environmental ordinances to the Environmental Protection Department.
- 3.8. The successful Contractor is permitted to examine the Environmental Protection Department reports related to the assigned accounts, and will be allowed to access records designated only by the Environmental Protection Department.
- 3.9. Reports shall be submitted as follows:
  - 3.9.1. Paid In Full Accounts
    - 3.9.1.1. Monthly to Environmental Protection and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 3.9.2. Uncollectable accounts
    - 3.9.2.1. Monthly to Environmental Protection and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 3.9.3. Status Reports
    - 3.9.3.1. Monthly to Environmental Protection and Finance & Accounting Electronic or Computer Printout
4. Code Administration Civil Citation Delinquent Accounts
  - 4.1. Receive delinquent Code Administration officer civil citation fee accounts on an as needed basis from the Alachua County Clerk of the Court, resulting from citations issued by the following agencies:
    - 4.1.1. Alachua County Office of Code Administration
    - 4.1.2. Alachua County Department of Environmental Protection
    - 4.1.3. Alachua County Office of Animal Resources and Care
    - 4.1.4. Alachua County Department of Fire Rescue Services
    - 4.1.5. Alachua County Sheriff's Office
  - 4.2. Process submitted accounts within twelve (12) months. Outstanding accounts which are not collected within this period are to be considered uncollectible, however, must first be determined as such, by the County.

- 4.3. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
- 4.4. Receive payments for each individual account assigned until collection is determined to be complete. This determination is to be made jointly by the County and the Contractor. The Contractor shall collect delinquent payments and remit amounts collected to the County, at a minimum, every thirty (30) days. In the event the Contractor collects \$500.00 or more, in less than a thirty (30) day period, the Contractor shall be required to remit said amount(s) to the County, at any time.
- 4.5. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
- 4.6. Refrain from utilizing any methods or tactics which will reflect negatively on the image of Alachua County.
- 4.7. Refer any inquiries regarding compliance with the Alachua County Citation Ordinance to the Alachua County Office of Code Administration.
- 4.8. The Contractor is permitted to examine the reports by the Clerk of Court or issuing agency related to the assigned accounts.
- 4.9. Reports shall be submitted to each agency as follows:
  - 4.9.1. Paid In Full Accounts
    - 4.9.1.1. Monthly to Clerk of Court and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 4.9.2. Uncollectible Accounts
    - 4.9.2.1. Monthly to Clerk of Court and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 4.9.3. Status Reports
    - 4.9.3.1. Monthly to Clerk of Court and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
5. Equal Opportunity Wage Recovery Delinquent Accounts
  - 5.1. Receive delinquent accounts under the Wage Recovery Ordinance on an as needed basis from the Equal Opportunity Office.
  - 5.2. Process submitted accounts within twelve (12) months. Outstanding accounts which are not collected within this period are to be considered uncollectible, however, must first be determined as such, by the County.

- 5.3. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
- 5.4. Receive payments for each individual account assigned until collection is determined to be complete. This determination is to be made jointly by the County and the Contractor. The Contractor shall collect delinquent payments and remit amounts collected to the County, at a minimum, every thirty (30) days. In the event the Contractor collects \$500.00 or more, in less than a thirty (30) day period, the Contractor shall be required to remit said amount(s) to the County, at any time.
- 5.5. Work cooperatively with debtors in arranging reasonable installment payments, as deemed necessary.
- 5.6. Refrain from utilizing any methods or tactics which will reflect negatively on the image of Alachua County.
- 5.7. Refer any inquiries regarding compliance with the Alachua County Wage Recovery Ordinance to the Alachua County Equal Opportunity Office.
- 5.8. The successful Contractor is permitted to examine the reports by the Equal Opportunity Office or issuing agency related to the assigned accounts.
- 5.9. Reports shall be submitted to each agency as follows:
  - 5.9.1. Paid In Full Accounts
    - 5.9.1.1. Monthly to Equal Opportunity and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 5.9.2. Uncollectible Accounts
    - 5.9.2.1. Monthly to Equal Opportunity and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout
  - 5.9.3. Status Reports
    - 5.9.3.1. Monthly to Equal Opportunity and Finance & Accounting, Electronic or Computer Printout



## **Exhibit 2: Insurance Requirements**

### **TYPE “A” INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS “ARTISAN CONTRACTORS / SERVICE CONTACTS”**

The Contractor shall procure and maintain for the duration of this contract insurance against claims for injuries to persons or damages to property, which may arise from or in connection with the performance of the Services hereunder by the Contractor, its agents, representatives, employees or subcontractors.

#### **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY**

Coverage must be afforded under a per occurrence form policy for limits not less than \$1,000,000 General Aggregate, \$1,000,000 Products / Completed Operations Aggregate, \$1,000,000 Personal and Advertising Injury Liability, \$1,000,000 each Occurrence, \$50,000 Fire Damage Liability and \$5,000 Medical Expense.

#### **AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY**

Coverage must be afforded including coverage for all Owned vehicles, Hired and Non-Owned vehicles for Bodily Injury and Property Damage of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit each accident.

#### **WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER’S LIABILITY**

Coverage to apply for all employees at STATUTORY Limits in compliance with applicable state and federal laws; if any operations are to be undertaken on or about navigable waters, coverage must be included for the USA Longshoremen & Harbor Workers Act.

Employer’s Liability limits for not less than \$100,000 each accident; \$500,000 disease policy limit and \$100,000 disease each employee must be included.

#### **BUILDER’S RISK / INSTALLATION FLOATERS (when applicable)**

When this contract or agreement includes the construction of and/or the addition to a permanent structure or building; including the installation of machinery and/or equipment, the following insurance coverage must be afforded:

Coverage Form: Completed Value, All Risk in an amount equal to 100% of the value upon completion or value of equipment to be installed.

When applicable: Waiver of Occupancy Clause or Cessation of Insurance clause. Flood Insurance as available under the

National Flood Insurance Program.

#### **CYBER LIABILITY COVERAGE (when applicable)**

Contractor shall procure and maintain for the life of the contract in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 per loss for negligent retention of data as well as notification and related costs for actual or alleged breaches of data.

Technology/Professional Liability: with limits of \$1 million. Coverage is for the life of the contract and must continue for five (5) years after contract expiration. This coverage must include Cyber Liability coverage for negligent retention of data as well as notification and related costs for actual or alleged breaches of data.

EMPLOYEE FIDELITY COVERAGE (only applicable to vendors whose employees handle funds)

Employee Dishonesty coverage must be afforded for not less than \$500,000 Blanket all employees ISO Form

#### OTHER INSURANCE PROVISIONS

The policies are to contain, or be endorsed to contain, the following provisions:

##### I Commercial General Liability and Automobile Liability Coverages

a. The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, its officials, employees and volunteers are to be covered as an Additional Insured as respects: Liability arising out of activities performed by or on behalf of the Contractor; to include Products and/or Completed Operations of the Contractor; Automobiles owned, leased, hired or borrowed by the Contractor.

b. The Contractor's insurance coverage shall be considered primary insurance as respects the County, its officials, employees and volunteers. Any insurance or self-insurance maintained by the County, its officials, employees or volunteers shall be excess of Contractor's insurance and shall be non-contributory.

##### II All Coverages

The Contractor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance to the County with a notice of cancellation. The certificate shall indicate if cover is provided under a "claims made" or "per occurrence" form. If any cover is provided under claims made from the certificate will show a retroactive date, which should be the same date of the contract (original if contract is renewed) or prior.

#### SUBCONTRACTORS

The Contractor shall be responsible for all subcontractors working on their behalf as a condition of this agreement. All subcontractors of the Contractor shall be subject to the same coverage requirements stated herein.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER: Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, 12 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Gainesville FL, 32601

**Exhibit 2-A: Certificate of Insurance**

**Exhibit 3: Certification of Meeting Alachua County Wage Ordinance**

***Contact Title: Contractual Services Agreement between Alachua County and Cedars Business Services LLC***

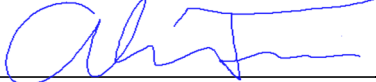
***Contract No. 13572***

***RFP No. 23-52***

The undersigned, who is authorized on behalf of the Contractor, certifies that all employees, contracted and subcontracted, completing services as part of this Agreement are paid, and will continue to be paid, in accordance with the Alachua County Government Minimum Wage requirements (“Wage Ordinance”) contained in the Alachua County Code, as may be amended.

Cedars Business Services LLC  
5230 Law Virgenes Rd, Ste 210  
Calabasas, CA 91302

**CONTRACTOR**

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Print: Alan Fassonaki

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 10/27/2022

## Exhibit 4: Business Associate Agreement

### BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

THIS BUSINESS ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT (this "Agreement") is effective upon execution of the Agreement (the "Effective Date") by and between **Alachua County, Florida**, a political subdivision of the State of Florida ("Alachua County" or "Covered Entity") and **Cedars Business Services, LLC**, a limited liability company which is authorized to do business in the State of Florida ("Business Associate"). The parties to this Agreement referred to as Covered Entity or Alachua County or or Business Associate may sometimes collectively be referred to "the Parties." The Parties mutually agree as follows:

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Agreement is to comply with the requirements of (i) the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA") and the associated regulations, as may be amended; (ii) the HIPAA Privacy Rule codified at, 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E, as may be amended; (iii) the HIPAA Security Rule codified at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and 164, Subpart C, as may be amended; (iv) the Breach Notification Rule, codified at 45 C.F.R. Part 164, Subpart D, as may be amended; (v) the Enforcement Rule codified at 45 C.F.R. Part 160, Subparts C and D, as may be amended; (vi) the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, Title XIII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "HITECH Act"); and (vii) the HIPAA Omnibus Final Rule published in the Federal Register at 78 Fed. Reg. 5,566 (Jan. 25, 2013), and effective on March 26, 2013. The HITECH Act provides further protection for the privacy and security of PHI used and disclosed through health information technology. The Privacy, Security, Breach Notification and Enforcement Rules are collectively referred to herein as the "HIPAA Rules." Unless otherwise defined in this Agreement, capitalized terms have the meanings given in the HIPAA Rules and the HITECH Act.

In consideration of the new and continuing obligations under the Services Agreement referenced below and other good and valuable consideration, the parties agree to comply with this Agreement and the requirements of the HIPAA Rules and the HITECH Act as follows:

1. **Services.** Alachua County and Business Associate have entered into a Contractual Services Agreement under which Business Associate will perform creditor collection services for Alachua County ("the Services Agreement"). Under the Services Agreement, Business Associate may create, receive, use, maintain or transmit PHI from or on behalf of Covered Entity in the course of providing the certain services (the "Services") for Covered Entity. The Services Agreement is incorporated herein by reference. In the event of a conflict between the terms of the Services Agreement and this Agreement, this Agreement shall control.

2. **Permitted Uses and Disclosures.** Business Associate may use and/or disclose PHI only as permitted or required by this Agreement, or as otherwise required by law. Business Associate may disclose PHI to, and permit the use of PHI by, its employees, contractors, agents, or other representatives only to the extent directly related to and necessary for the performance of Services under the Services Agreement. Business Associate shall make uses and disclosures, and requests for PHI from Covered Entity, only in a manner consistent with HIPAA's minimum necessary requirements, and no more than the minimum PHI necessary to perform under the Services Agreement. Business Associate shall not use or disclose PHI in a manner (i) inconsistent with Covered Entity's obligations under the HIPAA Rules or the HITECH Act, or (ii) that would violate the HIPAA Rules or the HITECH Act if disclosed or used in such a manner by Covered Entity. Business Associate may use PHI for the proper management and administration of Business

Associate's business and to carry out its responsibilities in accordance with 45 C.F.R. § 164.504(e)(4). Business Associate may not de-identify PHI received from, or created on behalf of Covered Entity without the express written authorization of Covered Entity. Business Associate shall make no use or disclosure of PHI in any manner which is contrary to the interest of Alachua County or will cause BUSINESS ASSOCIATE harm.

3. **Safeguards for the Protection of PHI.** Business Associate shall implement administrative, physical, and technical safeguards that are designed to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of Electronic PHI held by Covered Entity. Business Associate shall comply with the HIPAA Security Rule codified at 45 C.F.R. Part 160 and 164, Subpart C, as may be amended, and with the applicable provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, Subparts A and E, as may be amended, to the extent Business Associate is to carry out any of Covered Entity's obligations under the Privacy Rule. The Business Associate is responsible for ensuring that all of its employees or contractors who have access to PHI under this agreement are trained in the requirements of HIPAA as amended.

4. **Reporting and Mitigating the Effect of Unauthorized Uses and Disclosures.** If Business Associate has knowledge of any use or disclosure of PHI not provided for by this Agreement, then Business Associate shall promptly notify Covered Entity in accordance with Section 12. Business Associate shall establish and implement procedures and other reasonable efforts for mitigating, to the extent practicable, any harmful effects arising from any improper use and/or disclosure of PHI of which it becomes aware. Furthermore, in the event Business Associate becomes aware of a Security Incident involving PHI, by itself or any of its agents or subcontractors, Business Associate shall notify Covered Entity in writing within ten (10) calendar days, of such Security Incident. Business Associate shall identify (to the extent known) the: (i) date of the Security Incident; (ii) scope of the Security Incident; (iii) Business Associate's response to the Security Incident; and (iv) identification of the party responsible for the Security Incident, if known. Covered Entity and Business Associate agree to act together in good faith to take reasonable steps to investigate and mitigate any harm caused by such unauthorized use or Security Incident. For these purposes, a "Security Incident" shall mean the successful unauthorized access, use, disclosure, modification or destruction of information or interference with system operations in an information system. Certain low risk attempts to breach network security, such as the incidents listed below, shall not constitute a Security Incident under this Agreement, provided they do not penetrate the perimeter, do not result in an actual breach of security, and remain within the normal incident level: pings on the firewall; port scans; attempts to log onto a system or enter a database with an invalid password or username; denial-of-service attacks that do not result in a major outage.

5. **Data Breach Notification and Mitigation.** Business Associate agrees to promptly notify Covered Entity of any "Breach" of "Unsecured PHI" as those terms are defined by 45 C.F.R. §164.402 (hereinafter a "Data Breach"). The Parties acknowledge and agree that 45 C.F.R. §164.404, as described below in this Section, governs the determination of the date of a Data Breach. Business Associate shall, following the discovery of a Data Breach, promptly notify Covered Entity and in no event later than five (5) calendar days after Business Associate discovers such Data Breach, unless Business Associate is prevented from doing so by 45 C.F.R. §164.412 concerning law enforcement investigations. For purposes of reporting a Data Breach to Covered Entity, the discovery of a Data Breach shall occur as of the first day on which such Data Breach is known to Business Associate or, by exercising reasonable diligence, would have been known to Business Associate. Business Associate shall be considered to have had knowledge of a Data Breach if the Data Breach is known, or by exercising reasonable diligence would have been known, to any person (other than the person committing the Data Breach) who is an employee, officer or other agent of Business Associate. No later than five (5) calendar days following a Data Breach,

Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity with sufficient information to permit Covered Entity to comply with the Data Breach notification requirements set forth at 45 C.F.R. §164.400 et seq. Specifically, if the following information is known to (or can be reasonably obtained by) Business Associate, Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity with: (i) contact information for Individuals who were or who may have been impacted by the Data Breach (e.g., first and last name, mailing address, street address, phone number, email address); (ii) a brief description of the circumstances of the Data Breach, including the date of the Data Breach, date of discovery, and number of Individuals affected by the Data Breach; (iii) a description of the types of unsecured PHI involved in the Data Breach (e.g., names, social security number, date of birth, address(es), account numbers of any type, disability codes, diagnosis and/or billing codes and similar information); (iv) a brief description of what the Business Associate has done or is doing to investigate the Data Breach, mitigate harm to the Individual impacted by the Data Breach, and protect against future Data Breaches; and (v) appoint a liaison and provide contact information for same so that the Covered Entity may ask questions and/or learn additional information concerning the Data Breach. Following a Data Breach, Business Associate shall have a continuing duty to inform Covered Entity of new information learned by Business Associate regarding the Data Breach, including but not limited to the information described in the items above.

6. **Use and Disclosure of PHI by Subcontractors, and Agents.** Business Associate shall require any subcontractor, agent, or other representative that is authorized to create, receive, maintain, or transmit PHI on behalf of Business Associate to execute a business associate agreement to agree in writing to the terms and conditions no less restrictive than those set forth herein. Business Associate shall remove any subcontractor, agent or other representative from providing services to Covered Entity under the Services Agreement, if such subcontractor, agent or representative fails to abide by any material term of such agreement.

7. **Individual Rights.** Business Associate shall comply with the following Individual rights requirements as applicable to PHI used or maintained by Business Associate:

7.1. **Right of Access.** Business Associate agrees to provide access to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set, at the written request of Covered Entity, to Covered Entity or, as directed by Covered Entity, to an Individual in order to meet the requirements under 45 C.F.R. §164.524. Such access shall be provided by Business Associate in the time and manner designated by applicable law, including, where applicable, access by electronic means pursuant to Section 13405(e) of the HITECH Act.

7.2. **Right of Amendment.** Business Associate agrees to make any amendment(s) to PHI maintained by Business Associate in a Designated Record Set that Covered Entity directs or agrees to pursuant to 45 C.F.R. §164.526 at the request of Covered Entity or an Individual in writing, and in the time and manner designated by applicable law.

7.3. **Right to Accounting of Disclosures.** Business Associate agrees to document such disclosures of PHI as would be required for Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. §164.528. Business Associate agrees to provide to Covered Entity or an Individual, upon a written request, in the time and manner designated by applicable law, such information collected in order to permit Covered Entity to respond to a request by an Individual for an accounting of disclosures of PHI in accordance with 45 C.F.R. §164.528, as amended by Section 13405(c) of the HITECH Act and any related regulations or guidance issued by HHS in accordance with such provision.

7.4. **No Waiver of Privilege.** Notwithstanding 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3 above, Business Associate shall not permit access to any record if such access would violate Alachua County's or Business Associate's ethical responsibilities or any privileges which

Business Associate or Alachua County may have under Florida or Federal law. To the maximum extent permitted by law, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE hereby reserves and retains any and all privileges which Alachua County may have under Florida or Federal law related to the confidentiality of all patient records of Alachua County or any attorney-client privilege or any attorney-work product privilege which Alachua County may have with respect to Business Associate's performance of its obligations under this section. The parties acknowledge that Alachua County retains the right to waive its attorney-client privilege with regard to its own records and to expressly instruct Business Associate to provide access to those records as a result of that waiver. In the event Alachua County determines to waive any privilege which it may have, Alachua County shall provide Business Associate with written notice of that waiver before Business Associate may act on any such decision.

8. **Ownership of PHI.** Covered Entity holds all right, title and interest in and to any and all PHI received by Business Associate from, or created or received by Business Associate on behalf of, Covered Entity, and Business Associate does not hold, and shall not acquire by virtue of this Agreement or by virtue of providing any services or goods to Covered Entity in the course of fulfilling its obligations pursuant to this Agreement, any right, title or interest in or to such PHI. Except as specified in this Agreement, Business Associate shall have no right to compile, distribute, make any statistical analysis, or develop any report utilizing any PHI provided to Business Associate under this Agreement nor may Business Associate release any information about PHI or the PHI to any other governmental or private agency or entity without the express written consent of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE.

9. **Prohibition on Sale of PHI.** Business Associate shall not sell or receive any remuneration, direct or indirect, of any kind in exchange for PHI or in exchange for the disclosure of PHI to any public or private agency or entity, except as expressly permitted by this Agreement or by the Services Agreement or by written authorization of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE.

10. **Inspection of Books and Records.** If Business Associate receives a request, made by or on behalf of HHS requiring Business Associate to make available its internal practices, books, and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI to HHS for the purpose of determining compliance of Covered Entity with the Privacy Standards or the Security Standards, then Business Associate shall promptly notify Covered Entity of such request. Except as otherwise set forth below, Business Associate shall make its books and records relating to the use and disclosure of PHI by Covered Entity available to HHS and its authorized representatives for purposes of determining compliance of Covered Entity with the Privacy Standards and Security Standards.

To the extent permitted by law, Covered Entity hereby reserves and retains any and all privileges in which it has an interest under Federal or Florida law including attorney-client privilege or attorney-work product privilege with respect to Business Associate's performance if its obligations under this Agreement and this Section 10. Business Associate, to the maximum extent permitted by law, hereby reserves and retains any and all privileges it may have including all work product or other privileges or rights. Notwithstanding the above, in no event shall Business Associate delay complying with a request of HHS or its authorized representatives if such delay appears reasonably likely to result in any penalty, fine or other liability being levied or imposed upon Covered Entity (such likelihood to be determined in the sole discretion of Covered Entity), and Covered Entity has instructed Business Associate in writing to disclose the information requested by HHS or its authorized representatives. The Parties acknowledge that Covered Entity retains the right to: (i) waive the attorney-client privilege with regard to books and records, and (ii) expressly instruct Business Associate to provide HHS and its authorized representatives with such books and records in the event of such waiver.

11. **Term and Termination.**



11.1. Term. This Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date and end with the termination of the Services Agreement unless terminated sooner pursuant to Section 11.2.

11.2. Termination for Breach by Covered Entity. Covered Entity will provide Business Associate with written notice of the existence of the breach and provide Business Associate with thirty (30) calendar days to cure said breach upon mutually agreeable terms.

11.3. Termination by Business Associate. If Business Associate determines that Covered Entity has breached a material term of this Agreement, then Business Associate shall provide Covered Entity with written notice of the existence of the breach and shall provide Covered Entity with thirty (30) calendar days to cure said breach upon mutually agreeable terms or end the violation within this thirty (30) day period. Failure by Covered Entity to cure said breach or violation in the manner set forth above shall be grounds for immediate termination of the Services Agreement by Business Associate.

11.4. Effect of Termination. Upon termination of this Agreement, Business Associate shall recover any PHI relating to this Agreement in possession of Business Associate and its agents, or representatives. Business Associate shall return to Covered Entity or destroy all such PHI plus all other PHI relating to this Agreement in its possession, and shall retain no copies unless an applicable law, regulation, or professional or industry standard requires storage or retention of such data beyond such term. If Business Associate believes that it is not feasible to return or destroy the PHI as described above, Business Associate shall notify Covered Entity in writing. The notification shall include: (i) a written statement that Business Associate has determined that it is infeasible to return or destroy the PHI in its possession, and (ii) the specific reasons for such determination. If the Parties agree that Business Associate cannot feasibly return or destroy the PHI, Business Associate shall ensure that any and all protections, requirements and restrictions contained in this Agreement shall be extended to any PHI retained after the termination of this Agreement, and that any further uses and/or disclosures shall be limited to the purposes that make the return or destruction of the PHI infeasible. If the Parties do not agree that Business Associate cannot feasibly return or destroy the PHI, then Business Associate shall comply with this Paragraph 11.4. If Business Associate refuses to comply with this Paragraph 11.4, then Covered Entity shall treat the refusal as a material breach of this Agreement. In all events, Business Associate further agrees to comply with other applicable state or federal law, which may require a specific period of retention, redaction, or other treatment of such PHI. It is expressly understood that all limitations, restrictions or prohibitions on the use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate shall continue to exist and shall survive termination of this Agreement for any reason.

12. Notices. Any and all notices and other communications required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be: (a) delivered by personal delivery, provided the person to whom delivered signs a receipt; (b) delivered by commercial courier such as Federal Express, provided the person to whom delivered signs a receipt or the commercial courier can verify delivery; (c) sent by overnight U.S. express mail, provided the postal service can verify delivery; (d) sent by registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, provided delivery is actually made; or (e) sent by email to email address provided for each Party Notices shall be sent to the following addresses or to such other addresses as shall be furnished by notice to the other party in accordance with the provisions of this Section 12:

Alachua County 12 S.E. 1 <sup>st</sup> Street, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Gainesville, FL 32601 acpur@alachuacounty.us	If to Business Associate: Cedars Business Services LLC 5230 Las Virgenes Rd, Ste 2 Calabasas, CA 91302
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13. **Miscellaneous.**

13.1. **Survival.** The respective rights and obligations of the Parties under Section 10 (Inspection of Books and Records), Section 11.4 (Effect of Termination), and Section 13 (Miscellaneous) shall survive termination of this Agreement indefinitely, and those other provisions of this Agreement that apply to rights or obligation of a Party, which continue or arise upon or after the termination of this Agreement shall survive the termination this Agreement to the extent necessary to enforce such rights and obligations and to otherwise effectuate such provisions. It is expressly understood that all limitations, restrictions or prohibitions on the use or disclosure of PHI by Business Associate shall continue to exist and shall survive termination of this Agreement for any reason.

13.2. **State Law.** In addition to HIPAA and the HITECH Act, Business Associate shall comply with all applicable Florida law related to patient privacy or other privacy restrictions on records of BUSINESS ASSOCIATE and federal security and privacy laws.

13.3. **Regulatory References.** A citation in this Agreement to the Code of Federal Regulations shall mean the cited section as that section may be amended from time to time.

13.4. **Amendment.** This Agreement may be amended or modified only in a writing signed by the Parties. The Parties agree that they shall negotiate amendments to this Agreement to conform to any changes in the HIPAA Rules as are necessary for Covered Entity to comply with the current requirements of the HIPAA Rules. In addition, in the event that either Party believes in good faith that any provision of this Agreement fails to comply with the then-current requirements of the HIPAA Rules or any other applicable legislation, then such Party shall notify the other Party of its belief in writing. For a period of up to thirty (30) days, the Parties shall address in good faith such concern and amend the terms of this Agreement, if necessary to bring it into compliance. If, after such thirty-day period, the Agreement fails to comply with the HIPAA Rules or any other applicable legislation, then either Party has the right to terminate this Agreement and the Services Agreement upon written notice to the other Party.

13.5. **Interpretation.** Any ambiguity in this Agreement shall be interpreted to permit compliance with the HIPAA Rules and the HITECH Act and permit compliance with requirements of Florida patient confidentiality law to the extent they are more stringent than HIPAA Rules or the HITECH Act.

13.6. **Governing Law; Venue.** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts, as are specified in the Services Agreement.

13.7. **No Third Party Beneficiaries.** Nothing express or implied in this Agreement is intended to confer, nor shall anything herein confer, upon any person other than the Parties and the respective successors and permitted assigns of the Parties, any rights, remedies, obligations, or liabilities whatsoever.

13.8. **Severability.** In the event any provision of this Agreement is held to be

unenforceable for any reason, such unenforceability shall not affect the remainder of this Agreement, which shall remain in full force and effect.

13.9 Assignment. Neither Party may assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other.

13.10 Attorney's Fees and Costs. Should legal action be required to enforce the terms of this Agreement, the prevailing Party will be entitled to seek from the other Party all costs incurred in connection with such action, including reasonable attorney, legal assistant, investigator, and other paralegal and clerical fees and costs, including such costs and fees on appeal, if any.

13.11 Binding Effect. The provisions of this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this Business Associate Agreement effective as of the Effective Date.

**ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Michele Lieberman, County Manager

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM

DocuSigned by:  
*Diana Johnson*  
9E797AC46776481...

Alachua County Attorney's Office

**CEDARS BUSINESS SERVICES, LLC**

ATTEST (By Corporate Officer)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: Syntheia Nagel

Title: Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print: Alan Fassonaki

Title: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 10/27/2022