

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**Crime Lab Request for Contracted Services for Record Destruction**

**Background**

The Department of Justice Forensic Science Division laboratory was established in 1970. For the past 36 years, the crime lab has retained and stored **all** of the thousands of case records it has generated. Some are stored at the lab and others are stored through the State of Montana Records Management Bureau.

While the records from the most serious cases – such as homicide, rape and violent assaults – will be kept indefinitely, the lab estimates that 90 percent of its records older than five years can be purged.

In the 1970s and early 80s, it was common practice to keep some evidence in the case files, so some of the lab's old files contain illegal drugs, which should be destroyed.

**Need for Temporary Staff**

The lab proposes to hire temporary help to go through every record older than five years to determine which can be destroyed. We would hire someone knowledgeable in the relevant laws who could accurately assess which records must be retained.

**Funding Requested**

The records project would likely take at least one year to complete, so the crime lab requests 2080 hours at \$25 an hour.

	<b>FY 08</b>	<b>FY 09</b>
Contracted Services	\$52,000	-0-