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STAFF GENERAL COUNSEL

October 10, 2000

Janet Paula  
Vice-President of Sales and Service  
Initial Staffing Services  
4995 N.W. 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Suite 209  
Miami, FL 33166

**RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 00-154**

Dear Mrs. Paula:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on October 5, 2000 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your letter.

You requested an opinion regarding your company's ability to contract with the Public Health Trust to provide nursing staff.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you are Vice-President of Sales and Services for Initial Staffing Services. Initial's Health Care Staffing Division has provided nurses to the Public Health Trust since the early 1980's.

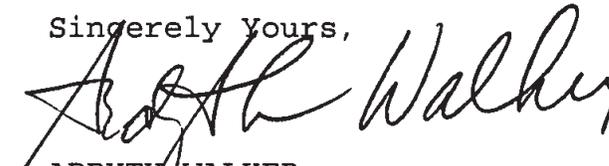
Your husband, Gustavo Paula, has been employed by the Public Health Trust since 1992. Your husband presently works as a nurse at the MetroWest Detention Center. Your husband's regular duties do not include staffing and neither you or your husband has a financial interest in the company.

The Commission found that The Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits Initial Staffing Services to provide nursing personnel to the Public Health Trust. Section 2-11.1 (d) provides that " No person included in the terms defined in subsection (b) (1) through (6) and in subsection (b) (9) shall enter into any contract or transact any business through a firm, corporation, partnership or business entity in which he or a member of his immediate family has a controlling financial interest, direct or indirect with Miami-Dade County or any person acting for Miami-Dade County. A controlling financial interest is defined as ten percent or more of the controlling financial interest in the corporation. Since you do not have a controlling financial interest in the corporation, Initial Staffing Services may continue to provide nursing personnel to the Public Health Trust.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2653 or Robert Meyers, Executive Director at (305) 579-2594.

Sincerely Yours,



ARDYTH WALKER  
Staff General Counsel