

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

ING 07-144

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 06, 2007 4:47 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Abilio (CAA)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for an Opinion

Dear Dr. Rodriguez,

I apologize for not responding sooner to your request for opinion. As I understand it, the critical facts are that you are the Delegate Agencies Coordinator for the Miami-Dade Community Action Agency Head Start/Early Head Start Program and your spouse is a teacher in a delegate agency which contracts with Head Start. You state you did not occupy your current position at the time your wife was hired and you are not involved in monitoring classrooms activities of the delegate agencies. Rather, you work with the agencies' center and executive directors, overseeing the development, implementation, service provision and monitoring of the Head Start/Early Head Start services throughout all contracted agencies. Finally, you indicate that you were not involved in the Request for Proposals developed this year.

There is no question that a conflict of interest would exist if you monitored the academic programs of the contracted agencies, considering that your wife would be part of the class of individuals under your supervision. However, given the fact your responsibilities are unrelated to academic monitoring – another individual is responsible for classroom monitoring – I conclude there is no conflict of interest under the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance. This conclusion is based on the fact that monitoring of the classrooms is independent from your work and that you have no ability to intervene in this area. As long as your job functions remain separate from those that could involve monitoring classroom performance and activities, I stand by the conclusion of no conflict. If your duties were modified and you were placed in a position to directly or indirectly evaluate academic programs (as long as your wife is still employed by one of the contracting agencies), my opinion would likely change.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust  
(305) 350-0613

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**From:** Rodriguez, Abilio (CAA)  
**Sent:** Friday, August 24, 2007 1:53 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Cc:** Robinson, Jane (CAA); Edwards, Julie (CAA)  
**Subject:** Request for an Opinion

Dear Mr. Meyers,

I am requesting an opinion regarding a conflict of interest that may exist because of my wife works for a Head Start/Early Head Start Delegate Agency. The facts are outlined below.

I am the Delegate Agencies Coordinator for Miami-Dade Community Action Agency Head Start/Early Head Start Program. My job requires overseeing the development, implementation, service provision and monitoring of MD-CAA Head Start/Early Head Start services throughout all contracted agencies. I participate in identifying required services, establishing procedures and guidelines applicable to quality assurance monitoring, overseeing periodic program reviews to ensure compliance with departmental, county, state and federal policies, supervising the monitoring of the provision of comprehensive child

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development services in a number of areas including: education; health, dental, nutrition and mental health services; disabilities services; and family and community partnerships, providing technical reviews of conditions affecting quality, participating in design review processes, issuing and reviewing audit finding reports/corrective action plans and verify that overall service delivery and performance are acceptable.

My wife is a teacher in a delegate agency which contracts with Head Start. At the time that she was hired, seven years ago, I was not the Delegate Agencies Coordinator. Presently, I do not directly supervise or monitor her performance since I work with the agencies' center and executive directors. At present, the monitoring of the delegate agencies classrooms is conducted by staff under the supervision of the Head Start Education Coordinator, Ms. Carol Brogan.

I am not involved in the award of the contracts to delegate agencies, not even was I involved in the development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) published this year for new delegate agencies. I am not employed or engage in any activity outside the County that may require or induce me to disclose confidential information acquired through my position. I have not receive compensation for services as an employee of the County from any other source other than my employer.

Please let me know if there is a conflict in this situation.

Thank you.

*Jesus Abilio Rodriguez, PhD  
Delegate Agencies Coordinator  
Miami-Dade CAA Head Start/Early Head Start  
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