



email at [lpinkybiv@hotmail.com](mailto:lpinkybiv@hotmail.com)

## ETHICS COMMISSIONERS

Dawn Addy, CHAIR  
Charlton Copeland, VICE CHAIR  
Nelson Bellido  
Judge Seymour Gelber  
Kerry E. Rosenthal

JOSEPH CENTORINO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
GENERAL COUNSEL

MICHAEL P. MURAWSKI  
ADVOCATE

MIRIAM S. RAMOS  
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

August 1, 2013

Penelope Bivins  
Signal Experts, Inc.  
21100 NW 30 Ave.  
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Re: INQ 13-191, Limitations on Doing Business with the County

Dear Ms. Bivins:

On July 26, 2013, you asked about limitations in doing business with the County through your privately owned company, Signal Experts, Inc. You are employed as a Resident Services Coordinator by the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Department. (Your sister, Crystal L. Bivins, who is employed by the Miami-Dade Police Department, is not considered an immediate family member under the County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (b)(9) and, consequently, her County employment is not germane to this opinion.)

If you have been granted permission to engage in outside employment, the County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (c)(2) allows the County to award a contract to your company as long as the contract does not interfere with the full and faithful discharge of your duties to the County. This includes the condition that you may not participate in determining the contract requirements or in awarding the contract. Additionally, none of your job responsibilities and job descriptions may require you to be involved in the contract in any way including, but not limited to, its enforcement, oversight, administration, amendment, extension, termination or forbearance. Finally, you may not work in any County department that would enforce, oversee or administer this contract.

This means that Signal Experts, Inc., may not enter into contracts with the Miami-Dade County Public Housing and Community Development Department because of your employment there.

---

*This letter does not grant you permission to engage in outside employment. You must obtain permission to engage in outside employment annually from your supervisor and file related financial disclosure forms every year.*

---

Additionally, you may not lobby for a County contract. This means that you may not contact anyone within the County in an attempt to influence a decision about the contract your company is seeking. (See the County Ethics Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (m)(1).)

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade County Ethics Code as it applies to County employee-vendors at Secs. 2-11.1 (c)(2) and (m)(1) only. It is not applicable to any conflicts under other sections of the County Code or to issues related to state or federal laws.

If any of the facts you have presented change or if you have further questions, please feel free to contact me at 305 350-0601.

Sincerely,

  
VICTORIA FRIGO  
Senior Staff Attorney

INQ 13-191

Bivins

Page 2