

**Meyers, Robert (COE)**

INQ 06-122

**From:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2006 3:17 PM  
**To:** Topinka, John (MDHA)  
**Subject:** RE: question

Hi John,

I won't ask the obvious question, but I wonder about the repercussions of such an arrangement. Having said that, the county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics does not address this matter. I spoke to the County Attorney's Office about your two questions: 1) rehiring the ex-employee who is forced to resign and 2) rehiring an ex-employee when the separation paper indicates "no" to the question of rehire. The most salient point is retaining a former employee's services as a consultant is not the same thing as re-hiring a former employee. Therefore, according to the County Attorney's Office, neither scenario you have presented to me would act as a legal bar to bringing you back as a consultant.

If you wish to discuss, please contact me at your convenience.

Thanks,

Robert Meyers, Executive Director  
 Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust

**From:** Topinka, John (MDHA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2006 12:22 PM  
**To:** Meyers, Robert (COE)  
**Subject:** question

You may have read that I was forced to resign from the Housing Agency in late July. I was but there was no date on the memo I signed so I could stay to help in the transition. My last day is August 30.

Cynthia Curry asked me if I would be willing to continue working as a consultant—don't ask the obvious question. I am willing to do this, but I have two questions.

1. Can the county hire an ex-employee who was forced to resign as a consultant?
2. Can this be done if the section on the separation paper says "would not rehire?"

I am fairly certain HUD rules prohibit my working as a consultant for Housing unless I am paid with non-federal funds.

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