

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INO 06-78

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 3:13 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: Inquiry

Sara Herald, a board member at the Children's Trust called and asked about a possible conflict of interest involving her daughter. Ms. Herald's daughter is a marketing major and is seeking a summer internship locally. Ms. Herald spoke to Emily Cardenas, Children's Trust staff, if she knew of any internship opportunities. Ms. Cardenas provided Ms. Herald with the list of several firms that might be looking for summer interns. Ms. Herald passed this information on to her daughter, who contacted each of these firms. She was interviewed by a firm and the firm wishes to offer her an internship. This firm receives a fairly large grant from the Trust. Ms. Herald seeks an opinion regarding any conflict that would be created if her daughter accepts the summer position with a Trust grantee.

At the time the firm in question was seeking funding from the Children's Trust, there was nothing to indicate that Ms. Herald's daughter would be interning for the firm. Ms. Herald did not intervene to help her daughter land an internship with a Trust vendor. Rather, she simply asked a Trust staff person, who might have knowledge of internships in the field, whether any internships were available. Once Ms. Herald received a list of possible firms that might be looking for summer interns, she gave this information to her daughter and the daughter did the rest. Inquiring about internships on behalf of her daughter did not amount to exploitation of her official position nor did it create an appearance of impropriety.

With respect to any ongoing business that the firm may have with the Trust while Ms. Herald's daughter is interning there, Ms. Herald should refrain from participating in or voting on matters affecting this firm. Regarding items that may impact the firm that come before the Trust after Ms. Herald's daughter has completed her internship, I can offer Ms. Herald no guidance.

Robert Meyers
5/31/06

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