

Meyers, Robert (COE)

INQ 07-110

From: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2007 2:02 PM
To: Wheatley-Austin, Ruth (COC)
Subject: RE: REQUEST FOR OPINION

Ms. Wheatley-Austin,

Thank you for your request for opinion. The county's Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics Ordinance restricts a County employee from transacting business with his/her own department or if the employee works in a County department which will enforce, oversee or administer the contract. Given that you work for the Clerk of Courts and the contract is with the Medical Examiner, I see no conflict under this section of the county ethics code. However, your activities with this corporation amount to outside employment and you must receive permission from you department to engage in these outside activities. Furthermore, you will be required to disclose the income you generate from your outside employment by July 1st of next year, assuming your corporation is awarded this contract or has other business during 2007.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience

Sincerely,

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

From: Wheatley-Austin, Ruth (COC)
Sent: Friday, July 06, 2007 1:59 PM
To: Meyers, Robert (COE)
Subject: REQUEST FOR OPINION

Dear Mr. Meyers,

My name is Ruth Wheatley-Austin, Records Manager, Clerk of Courts. Our company could like to submit a bid on 8392-4/12 "Transportation of Deceased Bodies" for the Medical Examiners Office and, therefore: I am requesting an opinion as to whether my position with Cornerstone poses as a conflict of interest since I hold the position of President of the corporation. This is a home base business and my duties include accounting, monthly invoicing, and general office work in the evening and weekends.

I am the President of Cornerstone Service of South Fl., Inc. 17474 SW 31st Ct., Miramar, FL. My husband Tony Austin, Sr., a Florida License Funeral Director, is the Secretary and only other officer of the corporation. Cornerstone Services is an "S" Corporation and was established in 2005 (an "outside employment" form is on file) and specialize only in the transport of decessae bodies to and from funeral homes. As part of our "Removal License" with the State, we do not work with the general public, only with funeral homes, hospitals, ME offices, etc.

Thanks you for your attention to this matter.

Ruth Wheatley-Austin
Records Manager
Clerk of Courts
9350 NW 12th St, Doral, FL 33172
305-593-1352
305-599-8981 (Fax)

7/11/2007