

Frigo, Victoria (COE)

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 5:13 PM
To: Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD)
Cc: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Request for Opinion (INQ 13-175)

Ms. Davis-Raiford,

The Ethics Commission staff has determined that the County Ethics Code is not violated if a member of your immediate family receives social services offered by the County department that employs you, as long as the family member is eligible to receive these benefits and you have not used your official position to obtain special assistance for her that is not available to others similarly situated. *See* Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1 (g).

We understand that you are the Director of the Community Action and Human Services Department and that many of the social services your family member will qualify for legally are provide through your department.

We find that the general rule found at Sec. 2-11.1 (c)(2) of the County Code—prohibiting individuals from entering into financial contracts with a department that employs a family member—is not germane. The intent of at Sec. 2-11.1 (c)(2) is not to impose restrictions in the delivery of social services to qualified individuals, but rather to prevent family insiders from obtaining improper pecuniary benefits through contracts with the County.

To avoid the appearance of impropriety, you stated that you will request that the Public Housing and Community Development Agency manage your family member's case rather than manage the case in your department. This action is not required by the County Ethics Code, but we appreciate your efforts in maintaining the public's trust.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

Direct Phone: 305 350-0601
Main Number: 305 579-2594
Fax: 305 579-0273



19 West Flagler St., Suite 820
Miami, FL 33130

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From: Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD)
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 5:08 PM
To: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Subject: RE: Request for Opinion

Thank you so much, Victoria. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lucia

From: Frigo, Victoria (COE)
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 4:03 PM
To: Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD)
Subject: RE: Request for Opinion

Ms. Davis-Raiford,

Your question has been forwarded to me for a response. I will be out of the office tomorrow, but will be able to reply to you on Monday.

Sincerely,

VICTORIA FRIGO, SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

Direct Phone: 305 350-0601
Main Number: 305 579-2594
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From: Davis-Raiford, Lucia (CAHSD)
Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2013 3:54 PM
To: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Subject: Request for Opinion

Mr. Centorino,

This is written to request the opinion of your office as to whether there would be any violations of the Code of Ethics if a member of my family received services offered by the County, for which they are, in every way, otherwise eligible. Specifically, my adult daughter and her children, meet the standards for services that are confidentially provided to qualifying individuals and families such as hers-- those impacted by crime victimization, disability and poverty.

As the director of the Community Action and Human Services Department, it is through the department that I manage that most of these services are provided to the citizens of Miami Dade County who qualify for them. She is one of those citizens. I do not believe that she should be put to unfair disadvantage by virtue of the job that I hold, but I do want to make sure that can receive services without impropriety, conflict or ethics violations of any sort.

It is with much hesitation and concern that I make this request, in that the request itself, could lead to my vulnerable daughter being subjected to public scorn and ridicule. I hope that you can appreciate the sensitivity of this matter. We are all very scared for her. I will to make myself available to answer any questions you may have.

Thanking you in advance for your advice,

Lucia

Lucia Davis-Raiford, Director
Community Action and Human Services Department
Overtown Village North
701 NW 1 Court, 10 Floor
Miami, Florida 33136
(786) 469-4616

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