

Florida Today

Children of commissioner's aide hired by outsourcing company

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Did County Commissioner Andy [Anderson](#) of Palm Bay use political influence to help a top aide's grown children land jobs with a contractor that took over county probation services?

In December, Anderson voted to privatize the county's pretrial and misdemeanor probation services

outsourcing 32 positions to Judicial Correction Services. The vote was 4-1 to hire the [Orlando](#) company.

A month later, Anderson wrote a letter of recommendation for Anna Marie Isnardi, the 31-year-old daughter of his chief legislative aide, David Isnardi, to help land her a job with the new contractor.

"I have personally known Ms. Isnardi for eight years and have observed her professionalism as a Deputy Clerk working for the Brevard County Clerk of Courts, and as a volunteer within the community," Anderson told Judicial Correction Services.

After JCS took over the contract Jan. 31, it hired her. It also hired her brother, David "Domenic" Isnardi, 26.

Anderson says he did what he would do for anyone he knew who asked for a recommendation. Both Isnardis submitted resumes and were hired on their own merits, said Jarrett Gorlin, President of Judicial Correction Services.

"We were not even aware the relationship with Commissioner Anderson until after they were hired," Gorlin said.

Meanwhile, the hires were timely. According to their father, he advised them to look for other work after Mitch Needelman became Clerk of Courts in January. Isnardi had run the 2008 campaign of former Clerk of Courts Scott Ellis. Needelman ran against him and lost -- but in 2010 won a special election held after Ellis resigned early.

"Everybody has the right to apply for jobs," Anderson said. "I don't think you should be discounted because you're associated with somebody."

Another question: Did the Isnardis get jobs that otherwise could have gone to county probation staffers who'd been laid off?

Gorlin said JSC re-hired 23 of the 25 former county probation employees who lost county jobs in the outsourcing.