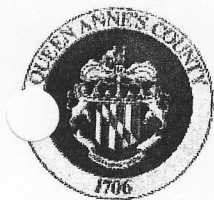


QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen
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County*

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Advisory Opinion from June 15, 2009 and July 20, 2009

The Commission considered the facts provided regarding the spouse of a high ranking County employee bidding on landscape contracting for the new Emergency Center for UMES, that is a partnership with the County, and whether that contract could be a conflict of interest and a violation of the County Public Ethics Law.

The Commission has made certain assumptions based on the information provided to reach its decision. We assumed that UMES is solely responsible for building, design and construction and that the County is solely responsible for the infrastructure for the project. We also assume that the two areas will not interface, and that the differences between the two areas will remain throughout the scope of the project. If the spouse of the employee bids on projects (presumably landscaping) solely under the control and payment of UMES, then a conflict of interest does not exist under §8-11.

Advisory Opinion 09-08