

Advisory Opinion from February 25, 2008.

The Commission considered facts provided regarding a county employee's receipt of a dinner and a gift certificate for \$50 from the Sudlersville Ecology Corp kids for filming their program and whether he could accept these gifts under County Public Ethics Law.

The Commission determined that there is a conflict of interest with the receipt of the gift certificate for \$50 under the County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-12 C (2). While performing the duties for the County, being paid by the County and using its equipment, the county employee may not receive a gift, except for those specifically allowable under the Ethics code (see sections B and C). He must return the gift certificate to cure the violation. No information was provided that the dinner during the event had a value of more than \$20, therefore, the Commission makes the assumption that it was the customary dinner with a value of less than \$20. Under §8-12 B (1), the receipt of the dinner is not a violation of the Ethics law.