

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION



*Queen  
Anne's  
County*

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**The Ethics Commission**

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Harold O. Wilson  
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Advisory Opinion from December 21, 2009

The Ethics Commission reviewed a request for an opinion relating to a conflict of interest for a county employee's husband's company to bid as a subcontractor on a job through two different subcontractors who are bidding on a County project.

From the information provided about the county employee's husband's company and her part ownership in that company, as well as information regarding the bidding process, the County Procurement Policy, and your employment with the County Commissioners, the Ethics Commission determined that there would be a conflict of interest under § 8-11 A (2) (b), if the employee's husband was to accept the contract, because of her financial interest in that company and her employment with the County Commissioners, who are the approving authority for this contract.

Further, the Commission determined that there would be an appearance of a conflict of interest, under § 8-11 A (7), for the employee's husband to participate in the bidding of this job from the County, because of the same facts above. The rationale of the decision was that an informed member of the public reasonably could believe that the employee's husband would receive favorable treatment in the bidding process because of her employment with the County Commissioners; and, if he received the subcontract, that she and your husband would be benefiting from that relationship because of her financial interests in the company.

Advisory Opinion 09-15