



*Queen
Anne's
County*

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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~~Clarence B. ...~~

Reverend Nanese A. Hawthorne (alternate)

Advisory Opinion Issued on November 19, 2007

The Commission determined that a County Employee's son who is employed with Kunkels Service Company, a company that the employee purchases parts from in his employment with the County, did not violate the Queen Anne's County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-11A(1), under the facts and circumstances presented.

The Commission determined that, under the facts presented by the employee, the employee's purchase of parts from Kunkels on behalf of the County would not have a "direct" financial impact on the employee's son within the meaning of §8-11A(1). Specifically, the Commission considered the facts that the son's job is too remote to any financial connection to the County, that the employee's purchase from Kunkels is based on price and service, and that the County has been purchasing from this company for more than thirty years – well before the son began working for them. Additionally, recognizing that the employee's purchases on behalf of the County have a "direct financial impact" on Kunkels, the son's "interest" in Kunkels in light of the nature of the son's work as a counter man there, is not the sort of interest that would violate this section. Accordingly, this relationship does not violate the law, specifically §8-11A(1).