



*Queen
Anne's
County*

The Ethics Commission

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Advisory Opinion from Special Meeting on December 11, 2007

The Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission considered the facts that a county employee who may have a conflict of interest in approving an application for housing in his capacity of Housing Program Manager at a special meeting on December 11, 2007, because of the time constraints for the opinion.

The Commission determined that because of the private business relationship with the applicant, the County employee would be in violation of the County Public Ethics Law, specifically §8-11A(3) and (7), if that employee was to make the decision on approving an application for public housing for an individual with whom he has a financial relationship. To cure the violation, the Commission determined that recusal would be the appropriate action. Further, the Commission concluded that the Department of Housing and Community Services should utilize their customary procedures for recusal, and if absent such procedures, the Department should be cognizant of the Conflict of Interest provisions of the Ethics Law in determining who would then be the final decision maker in this instance in order to avoid both the fact and the appearance of a conflict.