



*Queen
Anne's
County*

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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The Ethics Commission

Robert C. Mueller, Chairman
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C. Irving Pinder, Jr.
Reverend Nanese A. Hawthorne (alternate)

Tina Miles, Clerk
Lynn Knight, Counsel

Advisory Opinion Issued on September 17, 2007

A member of the Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission does not have a conflict of interest, or the appearance of conflict, with being a Board member for QAC Hospice. The member of the Board of Hospice is not involved in the budget or any requests for government grants or funding, does not receive any compensation for Board service, and does not have any financial interest in or benefits with Hospice. Further, as a member of the Ethics Commission, the person does not have any duties or responsibilities directly or indirectly related to County finances, County funding for private endeavors, such as Hospice; nor does the person's volunteer County position provide the person with any special access to those who do have funding responsibilities.

Further, a member of the Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission does not have a conflict of interest, or the appearance of conflict, with being an independent contractor working in the law firm of the counsel to the Ethics Commission. An informed member of the public would know that professional disagreements relating to legal issues and analyses is commonplace among members of the same law firm and, therefore, could not reasonably believe that the Commission member's conduct on the Commission would be improperly influenced by the professional relationship in the law firm of counsel to the Commission.