



*Queen
Anne's
County*

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Advisory Opinion from December 6, 2011

The Queen Anne's County Ethics Commission received a request for an advisory opinion, and the Commission reviewed the request at its meeting on December 6, 2011. The Commission considered the facts that were provided about whether there would be a conflict of interest under the Queen Anne's County Public Ethics Law in the hiring of an individual as a manager of the Airport, if that individual is a business owner that leases commercial space from the airport and buys large quantities of fuel from the airport.

In this context, the Commission concluded that there is a conflict of interest between this individual holding a position as an employee of the Queen Anne's County Airport and his business being a tenant and purchasing fuel. This relationship would violate 8-11(A)(2), which prohibits having a financial interest in an entity (the individual's business) that is subject to the authority of that employee (Airport Manager) and is doing business with the governmental unit of which the employee is affiliated (Airport). Further, the Commission determined that there would be an appearance of a conflict under 8-11 (A) (3), in that it an informed member of the public could reasonably believe that he would not be impartial and could have impaired judgment because of his business relationship with the airport.

Advisory Opinion #11-08