



*Queen
Anne's
County*

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

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Advisory Opinion from July 18, 2011

The Commission revisited its Advisory Opinions #11-03 and #11-04, at the request of a member of the Queen Anne's County Planning Commission and a potential conflict of interest existing when his attorney appears before him, as a planning commission member.

The Commission determined that at the present time, the Planning Commission member and his attorney are in an on-going legal, contractual, and ethical relationship for representation and therefore the appearance of conflict of interest, under §8-11 A (3) still exists, as consistent with their prior opinions. Regardless of the member's representation that the attorney no longer is working for him, the court case before the Circuit Court has not yet been ruled on. By rule, an attorney represents a client until the Court has issued an Order and the appeal period has expired (thirty days) or by permission of the Court for the attorney's appearance to be stricken. Neither of those scenarios exist presently.

The Commission determined that the appearance of a conflict would not continue after the representation ceases.

Opinion #11-07