

March 9, 2004

Re: IO-04-27

You inquired whether you may provide information about your summer teaching schedule to students to whom you teach a sports program for the department of recreation and parks. You said that the department will not be offering the summer program that you have taught for the last few years so you will be working for a private entity that offers a similar program.

The ethics law, §5-107, prohibits an employee from intentionally using the prestige of the employee's position for personal gain. The ethics commission has interpreted this provision to mean that you may not advertise non-county employment while on the job or to the students you teach in your official capacity. This section also prohibits you from endorsing any private entity. If you want to give your students a list of facilities that provide the services that the county no longer provides, you must list all of the available facilities, not just your favorites. You may not include your name in any listing or volunteer information about where you will be working, but if you are asked you may certainly answer.

Thank you for your inquiry. If you have other questions, please feel free to call me any time.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson  
Executive Director