

BY ELECTRONIC AND INTEROFFICE MAIL

July 20, 2004

Re: IO-04-65

You inquired whether you may sell tickets to a 50/50 raffle to co-workers in your office. The raffle is being held by a non-profit organization of which you are a member and 50% of the proceeds will be applied toward providing educational financial assistance to some of the members of the organization.

When we spoke, I did not know you were an employee of the sheriff's office, or I would have directed you to the State Ethics Commission. The Office of the Sheriff has been designated by the State Ethics Commission as a state agency, subject to the state ethics law. Since you are not subject to the jurisdiction of the county ethics commission, the commission may not give you a binding opinion. I will tell you that under county law, §5-107, a county employee would be permitted to offer raffle tickets to co-workers as long as they were not offered in the county work place or during work hours. One other limitation would be that a county employee would not be permitted to offer tickets to employees under the supervision of the employee selling the tickets.

While the state law is identical to the county law, its application by the State Ethics Commission may be different. I encourage you to call the State Ethics Commission at 410-974-2068, or visit them in Annapolis at 9 State Circle, Suite 200.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson
Executive Director