



RAFFLES & GAMES OF CHANCE

POLICY

A raffle and other games of chance involve people making a purchase, whether a ticket or other item, for a chance to win a certain prize. Florida law regulates the way charitable, nonprofit organizations conduct raffles or other games of chance.

All raffles or other games of chance must be **approved by** the Development Office within the Archdiocese of Miami. To seek approval of the raffle or other games of chance, parishes, schools or related archdiocesan entities must submit a Raffle Request Form to the President of the Development Corporation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all raffles and games of chance comply with the regulations set forth in Florida Statute §849.0935.

REGULATIONS

Florida Statute §849.0935 regulates the way charitable, nonprofit organizations can promote and conduct a raffle or game of chance. Any brochures, advertisements, notices, and tickets promoting the raffle must clearly state the rules governing the raffle, which is summarized below:

No Payment Required

Although federal tax-exempt status is a threshold requirement for nonprofits interested in holding a raffle in Florida, state law also limits the manner in which funds may be raised. Specifically, Florida statutes expressly prohibit charitable organizations from requiring or otherwise insinuating that a cash payment must be made in exchange for a ticket or entry into the raffle. This limitation seeks to distinguish a charity event from other gambling activities but does not prohibit a qualifying nonprofit from suggesting a minimum donation. For example, stating that "tickets cost \$100" would be a violation, but stating the "suggested donation for a ticket is \$100" would be acceptable under the law.

Disclosure

To ensure the legitimate operation of the raffle or lottery and to discourage misleading potential participants, Florida law requires the disclosure of certain information related to the event. Specifically, every brochure, advertisement, entry form and ticket used in connection with the drawing must indicate the source of the funds used to award the cash prize and the date, time, and place where the winner will be selected. Further, the materials must outline all the rules and regulations governing the contest, as well as the name and principal place of business of the nonprofit. In addition, no literature or advertising material circulated by the nonprofit as part of the raffle or lottery may be misleading, false, or deceptive.

Selection of Winners

All winners chosen through raffles and lotteries conducted by nonprofits in Florida must be done at random. State law specifically prohibits awarding prizes based on matching, instant winner, or pre-selected sweepstakes. This prohibition also makes it illegal to remove, disqualify, reject, or otherwise discriminate based on whether or not the entrant made a cash donation to the organization as part of the



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raffle. Further, while an organization may limit the number of tickets each participant may take, no awards may be conditioned on a minimum number of tickets having been disbursed or contributions made. Instead, all prizes offered must be awarded and an organization must notify a winner that he or she has won. The penalty for anyone caught violating this section is a second-degree misdemeanor under Florida law.

Reference: *Raffle Request Form*
IRS Raffle Reporting

Initial: May, 2013
Current: September, 2021