



Charitable Raffle Information

What is a raffle?

According to the Attorney General's Office a raffle, "means the award of one or more prizes by chance at a single occasion among a single pool or group of persons who have paid or promised a thing of value for a ticket that represents a chance to win a prize."

What raffles are legal?

An approved Forney ISD parent organization or booster club that is a 501c(3) organization for at least the past three years may conduct a raffle, where people may purchase a ticket to win a set prize.

What is an illegal raffle?

Raffles may not be conducted by individuals, by a for-profit business, or by a charity that has no members and/or does not meet the Attorney General's qualifications for Charitable Raffles (see State of Texas Charitable Raffle Enabling Act on Attorney General's webpage).

Is a school district authorized to host a raffle?

No. School districts are not allowed to host raffles.

Who can host raffles on behalf of a school district?

No one. School districts are not allowed to host raffles. Therefore, no one may legally host a raffle that claims to represent the school district.

Can raffle tickets be sold on school premises?

No. Raffle tickets may not be sold during school hours. With permission from Forney ISD, however, raffle tickets may be sold on school grounds during events outside the school day IF the group is a legally authorized organization allowed to do so under Texas law.

What, besides 501c(3) is required to be a qualified organization?

Among other criteria, the Texas Attorney General requires organizations to be made up of members who elect a governing body and also requires that the organization have been in existence for at least three years.

Are there restrictions on how many raffles a qualified organization may hold?

Yes. The law permits organizations to host only two raffles per year, and they cannot be held simultaneously. Several disclosures are required to be printed on the raffle tickets for each event. Check the Attorney General's website for this list of disclosures.

What prizes can be awarded in a raffle?

Prizes cannot be cash or gift cards or anything readily convertible to cash (bonds, cash certificates). The value of prizes purchased by the organization cannot exceed \$50,000.

May penalties be assessed for conducting an illegal raffle?

An unlawful raffle may be considered illegal gambling which can carry criminal penalties. A county or district attorney or the Texas Attorney General may shut down or take action against an illegal raffle.

More information:

For additional information about raffles or other fundraisers associated with schools or parent organizations affiliated with schools in Forney ISD please contact:

Forney ISD Administration
(972) 564-4055

For questions about UIL Athletic Booster Clubs contact Forney ISD Director of Athletics Neal Weaver at neal.weaver@edu.forneyisd.net.

For questions about Fine Arts Booster Clubs contact Forney ISD Director of Fine Arts Mario Luna at mario.luna@edu.forneyisd.net.