# Raffles

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Department of California
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### **Overview**

Raffle

Raffle Rules

Reporting Requirements

**Additional Information** 

Please Note: Charitable organizations are required to file an RRF-1 and CT-TR-1. These filings have nothing to do with raffles.

#### What is a raffle?

A type of lottery in which prizes are awarded to people who pay for a chance to win. A winning ticket is drawn from all the entries.

• Any scheme involving a prize where payment or purchase of something will increase the chance of winning the prize is considered a raffle even if there is a free entry option available.

### Who can conduct a raffle in California?

- Only nonprofits can conduct a raffle in California.
- Raffle must be conducted by the charity, its employees or volunteers
- Proceeds must support a charitable program in <u>California</u>

# Before a Charity can conduct a raffle

- Application for Registration CT-NRP-1
- Charity must be in good standing with the Registry
- Charity has been qualified to conduct business in California for at least one year
- Must show proof of tax-exempt status with the FTB
  - ➤ Go to ftb.ca.gov
  - Business help
  - ➤ Entity Status Letter
  - Check Status letters can be downloaded and printed. Letter is required to register your raffle.
- Under Penal Code section 320.5:
  - You must submit raffle registration 60 days prior to the date set for your raffle.



## Reporting Requirements

- Raffle calendar begins January 1 and ends December 31
- At the end of the raffle year the charity must:
  - Complete Nonprofit Raffle Report Form CT-NRP-2
    - Only one report is required for all raffles held during the year
  - ➤ This report, which provides the results of the raffle(s), must include ALL raffles during the year and is due by Feb 1st
  - The reporting requirement applies even if the charity held no raffle after registering for one.
  - Failure to file the report will lead to denial of future raffle registration.
- 90/10 Rule Applies
  - 90% of the proceeds must be used for charitable purposes
  - 10% can be used for expenses/operating costs



#### **Additional Information**

- Using websites or other online platforms to sell raffle tickets is illegal.
- If you fail to comply with the raffle registration and reporting requirements this is a violation of Penal Code 320.5. The Attorney General, a District Attorney, City Attorney, or County Counsel have jurisdiction to enforce administrative or criminal actions. If you failed to register or file reports, contact the Registry.
- If you failed to file a raffle report The Registry will not renew your organizations raffle registration. Even if your organization cancelled or held no raffles, if you registered, you must submit a report.
- Conducting an illegal raffle may be prosecuted as a criminal misdemeanor
- Attorney General website: oag.ca.gov/charities/raffles

