

Raffles

Georgia law §16-12-22.1 requires that any nonprofit tax-exempt organization performing a raffle in the State of Georgia obtain a raffle license from the Sheriff of the county in which the organization is located.

The only organizations permitted to operate a raffle in the State of Georgia are nonprofit, tax-exempt churches, schools, civic organizations, or related support groups; nonprofit organizations qualified under §501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code as amended; or a bona fide nonprofit organization properly licensed in accordance with Georgia law and approved by the Sheriff.

Operating a raffle without a license or falsifying information in order to meet the requirements of statute is a violation of Georgia Law and subject to prosecution. Persons operating a raffle without a license and/or persons participating in the operation of a raffle without a license are committing the offense of commercial gambling as defined by O.C.G.A. §16-12-22 and are subject to prosecution.

The offense of commercial gambling is a felony and upon conviction, a person may be incarcerated for not less than 1 year or more than 5 years and/or a fine not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Any person violating the operational requirements as provided by Georgia statute maybe found guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravate nature. A second conviction of such an act would be considered a felony and would be punishable by incarceration for not less than 1 year nor more than 5 years and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Requirements

The following requirements must be met in order for an organization to conduct a raffle in the State of Georgia (O.C.G.A. §16-12-22.1).

1. A special license may be issued by the Sheriff allowing qualified organizations to conduct up to three (3) raffles in a calendar year.
 - The application/license fee and the annual report are waived under the issuance of this special license.
2. Tax exempt organizations must have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months immediately prior to the issuance of the raffle license.

3. Applicant/organization must have a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service certifying that the applicant/organization is a tax exempt entity under federal law.
4. Applicant/organization must have a statement from the Georgia Department of Revenue which declares the applicant/organization to be tax exempt under Georgia law.
5. Documentation showing the applicants' association with the organization.
6. If the property where the raffle is being conducted is leased or rented, the applicant/organization must provide a copy of the lease or rental agreement.
7. If the applicant is a corporation, association or other similar legal entity, applicant must provide a list of the names and home addresses of each of the officers and directors of the organization/corporation, or other persons similarly situated.
8. Applicant must provide the name and home address of any person(s), organization(s), or other legal entity that is acting as surety for the applicant or to which the applicant is financially indebted or to which any financial obligation is owed by the applicant.
9. Applicant must provide a statement listing any convictions for criminal offenses, other than minor traffic offenses, of the following persons associated with the raffle:

Raffle applicant - raffle operator - advertiser - promoter - organization officer or director - surety - debtor - one to which any financial obligations is owed by the applicant.

Statement shall include the full name, date of birth, social security number, offense, date and location (county and state) of conviction.

10. Raffle licenses expire at 12:00 midnight on December 31st of the year issued.
 - You must renew the license each year to legally conduct annual raffles.
 - Renewal applications should be submitted prior to January 1st of each year.

Obtaining a Raffle License

Persons/organizations may apply for a raffle license by completing the appropriate application and submitting the application, along with all required information/documents, to the Sheriff of Cobb County.

1. The application for a Raffle License may be obtained by clicking on the following link: [Raffle License Application](#)
2. Applicant/organization is responsible for providing all required information and documents.
3. Completed application may be submitted by in person, mailed, faxed or emailed to the contact person listed below.
4. Application should be submitted in advance of the raffle, allowing the Sheriff's Office adequate time to process the application.
5. Questions may be directed to the contact person listed below.

Contact Person/Information

Kathy Rollins
Cobb County Sheriff's Office
Public Safety Building, Second Floor
185 Roswell Street
Marietta, GA 30060

Telephone: 770-499-4618
Facsimile: 770-499-4794
Email: kathy.rollins@cobbcounty.org