

# Beaver County Treasurer



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Dear Small Game of Chance license holder:

There have been many questions regarding the operation of virtual raffles. In an effort to clear the air, I placed a call with the Liquor Control Enforcement Division of the PA State Police who enforces the SGOC Laws. The captain with whom I spoke confirmed that all online sales of raffle tickets using credit cards are illegal. I have summarized his comments below.

## **BE AWARE**

The use of credit cards to purchase raffle tickets, both online and in person is absolutely prohibited. and out-of-state ticket sales may be in violation of other states' laws.

**ACTIONS NEEDED** - Organizations conducting a virtual raffle must demonstrate that they exercised due diligence to abide by the existing PA SGOC Laws. Below are the actions an organization must take with any virtual raffle being held.

## **Advertising disclosures in print and online**

- Cannot accept any ticket purchases tied to a credit card which violates the Small Games of Chance Act.
- Tickets may be purchased via online payment such as PayPal or Venmo, as long as they are tied to a checking account and not a credit card.
- No one under the age of 18 may purchase a ticket.

## **Conducting the Virtual Raffle**

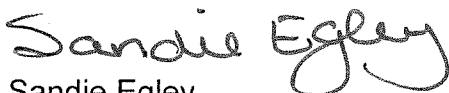
- The organization may provide a livestream link for the drawing, but must also afford the opportunity for the public to attend in person if they wish.
- A physical raffle ticket meeting all printing requirements must be utilized. The detachable stub must be completed and retained by the eligible organization. The ticket itself should be mailed to the purchaser OR
- If the purchaser agrees, the raffle ticket may be scanned and emailed to the purchaser prior to the raffle.

The purpose of this information is to be helpful to those who have questions. Please note that absolutely **no** information listed from the Beaver County Treasurer should be used as legal advice. Personnel are not permitted to give **any** legal advice. If you have a question concerning legality, please contact an attorney. If you have any general questions about small games of chance and virtual raffles, please call the **Pennsylvania Department of Liquor Control Enforcement at 717-540-7410**. Our District Representative is Chris Burns and he can be reached by the phone number above or email: [Chrisburns@pa.gov](mailto:Chrisburns@pa.gov). To review the full small games of chance guidelines you may find them here: <https://www.psp.pa.gov/LCE/Pages/Small-Games-of-Chance.aspx>

While I sincerely sympathize with trying to keep your organization afloat, I must make you aware of a growing number of raffles that have been shut down and/or fined by the state for holding an illegal small games of chance event. I am including two articles that I thought may be helpful for you to review. Also, you may want to contact the Governor and your local representatives.

I hope you find this helpful.

Thank you,



Sandie Egley  
Beaver County Treasurer

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