

CHAPTER 14 - Licensing of Organizations to Operate Raffles and Poker Runs

Article I - Generally

14-1-1 Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

"Business" means a voluntary organization composed of individuals and businesses who have joined together to advance the commercial, financial, industrial and civic interests of a community.

"Charitable organization" means an organization or institution organized and operated to benefit an indefinite number of the public. The service rendered to those eligible for benefits must also confer some benefit on the public.

"Educational organization" means an organization or institution organized and operated to provide systematic instruction in useful branches of learning by methods common to schools and institutions of learning which compare favorably in their scope and intensity with the course of study presented in tax-supported schools.

"Fraternal organization" means an organization of persons having a common interest, the primary interest of which is to both promote the welfare of its members and to provide assistance to the general public in such a way as to lessen the burdens of government by caring for those that otherwise would be cared for by the government.

"Hardship" means a non-profit fundraising organization that has not been in existence continuously for a period of five (5) years immediately before making application for a license that the County determines to be organized for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to an identified individual or group of individuals suffering extreme financial hardship as the result of an illness, disability, accident, or disaster.

"Key location" means the location where the poker run concludes and the prize or prizes are awarded.

"Labor organization" means an organization composed of workers organized with the objective of betterment of the conditions of those engaged in such pursuit and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in their respective occupations.

"Licensee" means an organization which has been issue a license to operate a raffle.

"Net Proceeds" means the gross receipts from the conduct of raffles, less reasonable sums expended for prizes, local license fees and other reasonable operating expenses incurred as a result of operating a raffle or poker run.

"Non-profit" means an organization or institution organized and conducted on a not-for-profit basis with no personal profit inuring to any one as a result of the operation.

"Poker run" means an event organized by an organization licensed under this chapter in which participants travel to multiple predetermined locations, including a key location, drawing a playing card or equivalent item at each location, in order to assemble a facsimile of a poker hand or other numeric score. "Poker run" includes dice runs, marble runs, or other events where the objective is to build the best hand or highest score by obtaining an item at each location.

"Raffle" means a form of lottery, as defined in Section 28-2(b) of the Criminal Code of 2012, conducted by an organization licensed under this Act, in which:

(A) the player pays or agrees to pay something of value for a chance, represented and differentiated by a number or by a combination of numbers or by some other medium, one or more of which chances is to be designated the winning chance;

(B) the winning chance is to be determined through a drawing or by some other method based on an element of chance by an act or set of acts on the part of persons conducting or connected with the lottery, except that the winning chance shall not be determined by the outcome of a publicly exhibited sporting contest.

"Religious organization" means any church, congregation, society, or organization founded for the purpose of religious worship.

"Veterans' organization" means an organization or association comprised of members of which substantially all are individuals who are veterans or spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, the primary purpose of which is to promote the welfare of its members and to provide assistance to the general public in such a way as to confer a public benefit.

14-1-2 Requirement of License.

A. License Required. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, business, corporation, organization or other entity to conduct or operate a raffle, or to sell, offer for sale, convey, issue, or otherwise transfer for value a chance on a raffle without having first obtained a license therefore pursuant to the county ordinance and the "Raffles and Poker Runs Act".

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, business, corporation, organization or other entity to conduct or operate a poker run without having first obtained a license therefore pursuant to the county ordinance and the "Raffles and Poker Runs Act".

14-1-3 Application for a License for a Raffle.

Any person, firm, business, corporation, organization or other entity seeking to conduct or operate a raffle shall file an application therefore with the County Clerk on the forms provided by the County Clerk.

Applications for licenses under this Section must contain the following information:

- (A) The name and address of the applicant organization;
- (B) The type of organization that is conducting the raffle, *i.e.*, religious, charitable, labor, fraternal, educational, veterans or other;
- (C) The length of existence of the organization and, if incorporated, the date and state of incorporation;
- (D) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of the organization's presiding officer, secretary, raffles manager and any other members responsible for the conduct and operation of the raffle;
- (E) The aggregate retail value of all prizes or merchandise awarded by a licensee in a single raffle;
- (F) The maximum retail value of each prize awarded by a licensee in a single raffle;
- (G) The maximum price which may be charged for each raffle chance issued or sold;
- (H) The maximum number of days during which chances may be issued or sold;
- (I) The area in which raffle chances will be sold or issued;
- (J) The time period during which raffle chances will be sold or issued;
- (K) The date, time, and name and address of the location or locations at which winning chances will be determined;
- (L) A sworn statement attesting to the not-for-profit character of the prospective licensee organization signed by the presiding officer and the secretary of that organization; and
- (M) A certificate signed by the presiding officer of the applicant organization attesting to the fact that the information contained in the application is true and correct.

An application for a license to conduct or operate a raffle shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$15.00 filing fee. Such fee shall be paid by cash, cashier's check or local check. The County Clerk shall refer the application to the County Board Chairman or the Chairman's designee.

14-1-4 Application for a License for a Poker Run.

Any person, firm, business, corporation, organization or other entity seeking to conduct or operate a poker run shall file an application therefore with the County Clerk on the forms provided by the County Clerk.

Applications for licenses under this Section must contain the following information:

- (A) The name and address of the applicant organization;
- (B) The type of organization that is conducting the raffle or poker run, *i.e.*, religious, charitable, labor, fraternal, educational, veterans or other;
- (C) The length of existence of the organization and, if incorporated, the date and state of incorporation;
- (D) The name, address, telephone number, and date of birth of the organization's presiding officer, secretary, and any other members responsible for the conduct and operation of the raffle or poker run;
- (E) The name, address, and telephone number of all locations at which the poker run will be conducted;
- (F) The time period during which the poker run will be conducted;
- (G) The time of determination of winning chances and the location or locations at which the winning chances will be determined;
- (H) A sworn statement attesting to the not-for-profit character of the prospective licensee organization signed by the presiding officer and the secretary of that organization; and
- (I) A certificate signed by the presiding officer of the applicant organization attesting to the fact that the information contained in the application is true and correct.

An application for a license to conduct or operate a poker run shall be accompanied by a non-refundable \$25 filing fee. Such fee shall be paid by cash, cashier's check or local check. The County Clerk shall refer the application to the County Board Chairman or the Chairman's designee.

14-1-5 Licensee Qualifications.

Raffle licenses and poker run licenses shall be issued only to bona fide religious, charitable, labor, business, fraternal, educational or veterans' organizations that operate without profit to their members and which have been in existence continuously for a period of 5 years immediately before making application for a license and which have had during that entire 5 year period a bona fide membership engaged in carrying out their objects.

Also, a requirement to a non-profit fundraising organization that the County Board Chairman or the Chairman's designee determines is organized for the sole purpose of providing financial assistance to an identified individual or group of individuals suffering extreme financial hardship as the result of an illness, disability, accident or disaster.

The County Board Chairman or Chairman's designee may waive the 5-year requirement under this subsection for a bona fide religious, charitable, labor, business, fraternal, educational, or veterans' organization that applies for a license to conduct a raffle or poker run if the organization is a local organization that is affiliated with and chartered by a national or State organization that meets the 5-year requirement.

The following are **ineligible** for any raffle or poker run license:

- (A) Any person who has been convicted of a felony;
- (B) Any person who is or has been a professional gambler or gambling promoter;
- (C) Any person who is not of good moral character;
- (D) Any organization in which a person defined in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section has a proprietary, equitable, or credit interest or in which such person is active or employed;
- (E) Any organization in which a person defined in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section is an officer, director, or employee, whether compensated or not; and
- (F) Any organization in which a person defined in subsection (1), (2), or (3) of this section is to participate in the management or operation of a poker run as defined in this section.

14-1-6 License Issuance.

(A) The County Board Chairman or Chairman's designee shall review all raffle applications and all poker run license applications. The County Board Chairman or Chairman's designee shall, within thirty (30) days from the date of application, accept or reject a raffle or poker run license application. If an application is accepted, the County Board Chairman or Chairman's designee shall forthwith issue a raffle or poker run license to the applicant.

(B) Educational Organizations and Religious Organizations may apply for a yearly raffle license provided all such raffles will be held only at one physical address. The number of raffles held per year will be limited to twenty (20). Each organization shall pay a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per year. All other provisions of this ordinance shall apply. (Approved by Full Board May 20, 2019.)

A raffle license or poker run license shall specify:

(A) The area or areas within the County in which raffle chances will be sold or issued or a poker run will be conducted;

(B) The time period during which raffle chances will be sold or issued or a poker run will be conducted; and

(C) The time of determination of winning chances and the location or locations at which the winning chances will be determined.

(1) Any license issued under this Ordinance shall be non-transferrable.

(2) A license shall be valid for one raffle event or one poker run only, unless the County Board Chairman or Chairman's designee specifically authorized a specified number of raffles or poker runs to be conducted during a specified period not to exceed one year.

(3) A raffle license or poker run license may be suspended or revoked for any misrepresentation on the application, any violation of this Ordinance or State law, or when such raffle or poker run or portion thereof is conducted so as to constitute a public nuisance or to disturb the peace, health, safety or welfare.

(4) Prominent Display of License:

(a) A raffle license shall be prominently displayed at the time and location of the determination of the winning chances.

(b) A poker run license shall be prominently displayed at each location at which the poker run is conducted or operated.

(5) Miscellaneous Provision for Poker Run License: Any poker run license issued shall cover the entire poker run, including locations other than the key location. Each license issued shall include the name and address of each location at which the poker run will be conducted.

(6) Jefferson County shall be the issuing authority for all the unincorporated areas within the County.

a. In accordance with 230 ILCS 15/2(a), Jefferson County shall not issue any licenses within a municipality. (Approved by the Full Board May 20, 2019.)

14-1-7 Conduct of Raffles and Poker Runs.

The operation and conduct of raffles and poker runs are subject to the following restrictions:

(A) The aggregate retail value of all prizes or merchandise awarded by a licensee in a single raffle or poker run shall not exceed \$250,000.00;

(B) The maximum retail value of each prize awarded by a licensee in a single raffle or poker run shall not exceed \$250,000.00;

(C) The maximum price which may be charged for each raffle or poker run chance issued or sold shall not exceed \$250.00;

(D) The maximum number of days during which chances may be issued or sold shall not exceed 180 days;

(E) The entire net proceeds of any raffle or poker run must be exclusively devoted to the lawful purposes of the organization permitted to conduct that game;

(F) No person except a bona fide member of the sponsoring organization may participate in the management or operation of the raffle or poker run;

(G) No person may receive any remuneration or profit for participating in the management or operation of the raffle or poker run.

(H) A licensee may rent a premises on which to determine the winning chance or chances in a raffle only from an organization which is also licensed under the county ordinance. A premises where a poker run is held is not required to obtain a license if the name and location of the premises is listed as a predetermined location on the license issued for the poker run and the premises does not charge for use of the premises.

(I) Raffle chances may be sold or issued only within the area specified on the raffle license and winning chances may be determined only at those locations specified on the

license for a raffle. A playing card or equivalent item may be drawn only within the area specified on the poker run license and winning hands or scores may be determined only at those locations specified on said license.

(J) A person under the age of eighteen (18) years may participate in the conducting of raffles or chances or poker runs only with the permission of a parent or guardian. A person under the age of eighteen (18) years may be within the area where winning chances in a raffle or winning hands or scores in a poker run are being determined only when accompanied by his parent or guardian.

If a lessor rents premises where a winning chance on a raffle or a winning hand or score in a poker run is determined, the lessor shall not be criminally liable if the person who uses the premises for the determining of winning chances does not hold a license issued by the County.

14-1-8 Manager-Bond.

(A) All operations of and conduct of raffles and poker runs shall be under the supervision of a single raffle or poker run manager designated by the organization. The manager or operator of the raffle or poker run must be a bona fide member of the organization holding the license for such a raffle or poker run and may not receive any remuneration or profit for participating in the management or operation of the raffle or poker run.

(B) The manager shall give a fidelity bond in the sum of the aggregate retail value of the prizes as set out on the application to be awarded in favor of the licensee, conditioned upon his/her honesty in the performance of his/her duties. Terms of the bond shall provide that notice shall be given in writing to the County not less than thirty (30) days prior to its cancellation.

(C) The County Board Chairman or the Chairman's designee is authorized to waive this bond requirement by including a waiver provision in the license issued to an organization under the county ordinance, provided that a license containing such waiver provision shall be granted only by unanimous vote of the members of the licensed organization.

14-1-9 Records.

(A) Each organization licensed to conduct raffles and chances or poker runs shall keep records of its gross receipts, expenses and net proceeds for each single gathering or occasion at which winning chances in a raffle or winning hands or scores in a poker run are determined. All deductions from the gross receipts for each single gathering or occasion shall be documented with receipts or other records indicating the amount, a description of the purchased item or service or other reason for the deduction, and the recipient. The distribution of net proceeds shall be itemized as to payee, purpose, amount and date of payment.

(B) Gross receipts from the operation of raffles or poker runs shall be segregated from other revenues of the organization, including bingo gross receipts, if bingo games are also conducted by the same non-profit organization pursuant to license therefore issued by the Department of Revenue of the State of Illinois, and placed in a separate account. Each organization shall have separate records of its raffles or poker runs. The person who accounts for the gross receipts, expenses, and net proceeds from the operation of raffles or poker runs shall not be the same person who accounts for other revenues of the organization.

(C) Each organization licensed to conduct raffles or poker runs shall report monthly to its membership, and to the County Clerk of Jefferson County, Illinois, its gross receipts, expenses and net proceeds from raffles or poker runs, and the distribution of net proceeds itemized as required by this Section.

(D) Records required by this Section shall be preserved for three (3) years, and the organization shall make available their records relating to operation of poker runs for public inspection at reasonable times and places.

The County shall maintain the records required by this Section in compliance with the “Raffles and Poker Runs Act” and the Local Records Act, 50 ILCS 205/1 *et seq.*

14-1-10 Limited Construction.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to authorize the conducting or operating of any gambling scheme, enterprise, activity, or device other than raffles or poker runs as provided for herein.

14-1-11 Severability.

The articles, provisions, and sections of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be separable and the invalidity of any portion of this Ordinance shall not affect the validity of the remainder.

14-1-12 Effective Date.

This county ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form as required by law. Dated July 28, 2014.

(Approved by the Full Board on March 27, 2017.)