

Texas Raffle Rules

The Texas statute on raffles is found at Texas Occupations Code, Title 13, *Sports, Amusements, and Entertainment*, Subtitle A, *Gaming*, Chapter 2002, *Charitable Raffles*. This statute allows raffles in Texas in very limited circumstances.

First, section 2002.002 states that a raffle must be for a charitable purpose, which is defined as:

- 1) benefitting needy or deserving persons in Texas, enhancing religious or educational advancement, relieving them from disease, suffering, or distress, contributing to their physical well-being, assisting them in establishing themselves as worthy and useful citizens, or increasing their comprehension of and devotion to the principles on which the US was founded;
- 2) initiating, performing, or fostering worthy public works in Texas; or
- 3) enabling or furthering the erection or maintenance of public structures in Texas.

Second, only qualified religious societies, qualified volunteer fire departments, qualified volunteer emergency medical services, or qualified nonprofit organizations can hold raffles. A qualified nonprofit organization is one incorporated or holding a certificate of authority under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act and that qualifies for and has obtained an exemption from federal income tax from the IRS under Section 501(c)