



Sheryl G. Steckler
Inspector General

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL PALM BEACH COUNTY



Inspector General
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"Enhancing Public Trust in Government"

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DID YOU KNOW?

RAFFLES

Section 849.09, Florida Statutes, makes it "...unlawful for any person in this state to promote or conduct a lottery for money or anything of value."

Florida courts have determined that a lottery consists of three essential elements:

1. A prize;
2. which is award by chance; and
3. consideration, or fee to enter.

A raffle by definition is considered a lottery.

Section 849.0935, F.S. provides exemptions, and allows certain charitable organizations to conduct lotteries. Attorney General Opinion 97-54 explains these exemptions in further detail. The exemptions only permit tax exempt organizations qualified under 26 USC, 501(c)(3) to conduct such lotteries. Other organizations or individuals may not conduct lotteries.

Based on this statute, raffles conducted by County or Municipal employees for any purpose are in violation of the law, including those which may be intended to benefit charities, including the United Way.
