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### **Why Online Raffles are not Permitted under Wisconsin Law**

The state's raffle statutes were drafted before the Internet revolution and the current prevalence of online ticket sales for events other than raffles. As a result, the statutes do not expressly address online raffles. It is the Division of Gaming's position that online raffles are not permitted under Wisconsin law.

Any online raffle would face a number of significant legal obstacles, including how to ensure that: (i) the licensee remains a "local organization," as required by Wis. Stat. § 563.907(2); (ii) all raffle tickets are "identical in form," as required by Wis. Stat. § 563.93(1m) and 563.935(1); (iii) the licensee provides the purchaser their portion of the ticket, as required by Wis. Stat. § 563.93(2g)(c); and (iv) all drawings are held "in public," as required by Wis. Stat. §§ 563.93(2g)(d) and 563.935(5).

The statutes also require that the drawing method is a "random selection of a ticket portion or calendar portion from a container housing portions of all tickets or calendars purchased for the selection" as defined by Wis. Stat. §§ 563.03(5r)(a). For multiple-container raffles (commonly known as a bucket raffle), the statutes require "the ticket purchaser places his or her ticket in the container of his or her choice," Wis. Stat. §§ 563.03(10m)(c). Other drawing methods such as random number generators are not permitted.

Permitting online raffles, with its potential to dramatically expand the scope and sophistication of raffles, also could be viewed as violating the requirement of Wis. Stat. § 563.02(2) that raffles be "regulated as to discourage commercialization." As a result, the Division does not permit licensees to conduct online raffles.

Note that it is permissible to advertise and promote your raffle on the internet, you just cannot provide a means to purchase tickets.