

Raffles and Lotteries

Raffles and Lotteries are a great way to raise funds for Sands either on their own or to bring in extra money at an event. However, you must be aware that the rules on lotteries and gaming are fairly complex with strict laws governing how they are run. We have put together the following notes to help you but these should only be taken as a guide.

In brief, a lottery is the formal name for a 'a game of chance'. A raffle is a colloquial name for a lottery, usually with no cash prizes. Lotteries come in many forms and are in general, regulated by the Gaming Board.

There are 2 types of lottery that can be held without the permission from your local authorities, the police, the Gaming Board or anyone else.

Small Lotteries which are run during an exempt entertainment (a bazaar, sale of work, fête, dinner dance, sporting or athletic event or other entertainment of a similar character, i.e. not being an event in which the lottery is the main attraction) can be promoted without the need for registration or a return being made to a regulating authority. However, they **must not** be run for private gain. No more than £250 may be used from the proceeds of the lottery for the purchase of prizes and no cash prizes may be awarded. The value of donated prizes is unlimited. Although there are no regulations governing the printing of tickets, tickets **must** only be sold within the time and place of the entertainment. All money must be donated to Sands.

Private lotteries, like small lotteries, do not require registration but do require tickets to be printed in conformity with the Act. The principal restriction on private lotteries is that no publication of the lottery is permitted outside the premises of the organisation or group of people for whom the lottery is being promoted. The sale of tickets **must** be confined to people living or working in the same premises or who belong to a society that exists for purposes other than gambling. All money must be donated to Sands.

The other type of raffle is one that is required by law to be registered. This is a society raffle and enables tickets to be sold over a period of time to the general public. It is run by a group of people and must be registered with your local authority or the Gaming Board (usually costs about £30). There are strict rules regarding the administration of a society raffle:

- The maximum price you can charge for each ticket is £2
- You can register with the local authority as "Mr P Smith raising money for Sands ", but you **must not** register as "Sands".
- You must abide by the authorities rules on what must be printed on the tickets
- You must follow the authorities rules on how to administer the raffle
- Organising a society raffle does require you to keep financial records. Please check the rules carefully with your local authority.

Full details can be found at the Institute of Fundraising website www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk where you can download the Raffles and Lotteries Guidelines.

It is recommended that anyone thinking of running a lottery in England, Wales or Scotland should get a copy of the booklet 'Lotteries and the Law' available from the www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or call 0121 230 6500.

Anyone thinking of running a lottery in Northern Ireland should contact the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action via their website at www.nicva.org or call 028 9087 7777 for a copy of the booklet, *Lotteries: A Guide for Voluntary Groups*