



The State of Georgia closely regulates the operation of lotteries, raffles, and other games of chance. In Georgia, a raffle is defined as “any scheme or procedure whereby one or more prizes are distributed by chance among persons who have paid or promised consideration for a chance to win such prize” (O.C.G.A. § 16-12-22.1[b][3]). This definition includes any procedure in which a prize is given away if the participant is required to provide something of value (i.e., “consideration”) in exchange for the chance to win. For our purposes, “consideration” is the time an individual spends to participate in a research study. It is a misdemeanor, and in some instances a felony, to conduct a raffle (or aid in the operation of a raffle) without a license issued by a county sheriff in Georgia.

A raffle may be conducted if persons can participate in the raffle without being required to provide any consideration. In the context of research, any person should be able to participate in the raffle, including those who do not consent to participating in research, for the raffle to satisfy state laws.

*If a researcher wishes to utilize a raffle to encourage participation in research, they must adhere to the following provisions, explain the raffle procedures in the participant incentive section of their IRB application and, as applicable, in the incentive section of the informed consent document(s):*

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The research may not include activities that are more than minimal risk (exempt or expedited reviews).

The raffle must be conducted in a manner that does not compromise participant anonymity or confidentiality that is protected by other protocol methodology.

The raffle must be open to all individuals, whether they participate in the research or not. The researcher must provide the IRB with a comprehensive plan for how participants who do not consent to the research procedures will be notified of the raffle.

The researcher must provide the IRB with information concerning the amounts and number of prizes involved in the raffle. Both the amounts and number of prizes must not be coercive or exert an undue influence on participants, and the disparity between subjects should be considered (i.e., several low value prizes is preferred over one high value prize).

All persons who elect to participate in the raffle must have the same chance of winning the prize(s). The researcher must include statements that entry into the raffle is not contingent on participation in the research and that a person may remain eligible for the raffle even if he/she withdraws from a study.

The researcher, any co-researchers or research assistants named in the protocol, immediate family members (spouse, parents, siblings, and children) of such persons, and any other persons with a direct interest in the research study must be excluded from participation in the raffle.

Any raffle should only be open to those eighteen (18) years of age and older and who reside within the United States.

The researcher must maintain records regarding the raffle along with other research-related documents.

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