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Policy: Small Games of Chance

The District Attorney has received inquiries about small games of chance for non-profits not eligible under the Local Option Small games of Chance Act of 1988, as Amended by Act 2 of 2012 and Acts 90 and 92 of 2013, and from organizations wishing to run one-time, one-night games of chance.

This policy is written to insure the consistent application of my prosecutorial discretion in these matters.

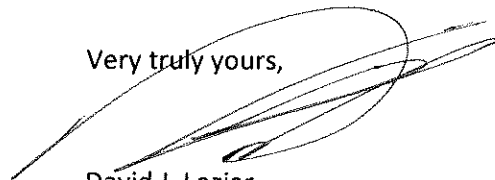
Non-Profits, Local Sports Associations, Religious Organizations, and Political Organizations historically run low dollar amount door prizes, 50-50's, silent auctions and "Chinese" auctions at events. Some organizations are not eligible for single event licenses or would bear a high burden to obtain a single event license for an occasional low dollar-amount event.

As such, I will not prosecute such an organization, or its responsible person, running a one-time, quarterly or less, small dollar value (less than \$2,000 prize money) game of chance (50-50, door prize, silent auction, "Chinese" auction) at an event where all gaming chances are sold on the day of the event and all winnings are determined on the day of the event, all chances are sold at a single location, and notice is clearly posted that proceeds solely benefit the non-profit organization.

I made an inquiry with the Gaming Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General. They are in agreement with this exercise of discretion and similarly elect not to prosecute single-event low dollar value games unless they are connected to a larger investigation.

Any small game of chance may inquire, in writing, of my office to clarify whether a game they wish to run qualifies for this discretionary exception or would require a license.

Very truly yours,



David J. Lozier
District Attorney
Beaver County

DJL/djf
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