



## TOWN OF GRANBY

# Charitable Gaming

## Frequently Asked Questions

Is your organization thinking of conducting a Raffle, Bazaar or Bingo event? Along with raising money, this can be a team-builder for your members and a great idea for increasing awareness of an organization. But along with the fun, it is important to know that these games are all regulated by CT State Statutes and must be properly permitted within the town the event will be conducted.

**You MUST have a permit prior to printing and selling tickets/chances for your fundraising event.**

*Public Act 17-231*- An Act Concerning Municipalities and Bingo Games, Bazaars and Raffles went into effect on January 1, 2018.

The Town of Granby Chief of Police will be responsible for the permitting and enforcement of all Bingo games, Bazaars, and Raffles taking place in the Town of Granby.

**Q: Is my Organization required to obtain a permit before conduction a Raffle, Bazaar or Bingo event?**

A: YES. It is illegal to conduct any charitable/fundraising gaming events without the proper permit or registration. This includes Parent-Teacher and Religious organizations. If you are conduction the event in Granby, you must obtain the permit through the Granby Police Department. Even "small" raffles with one prize must have a permit if chances/tickets are sold for it. You may not sell tickets nor conduct any part of the game of chance fundraising until you receive your permit.

**Q: How do I know if my organization qualifies to apply for a permit to conduct a Raffle, Bazaar or Bingo event?**

A: The Organization must be a Charitable, Civil, Educational, Fraternal, Veterans or Religious Organization, Volunteer Fire Department or Grange that has been officially organized and recognized for at least two years (Bingo) and not less than six months (Bazaar or Raffle) before submitting permit application.

**Q: I want to personally raise money for a specific person or family. Can I legally conduct a Raffle to do so?**

A: NO. Individuals may not legally raise funds through gaming (raffles, etc.), no matter how well intended. You must be registered as a public charity or be sponsored by a public charity and obtain a permit, in order to conduct charitable gaming. The funds raised must support the organization's mission.

**Q: May cash be given as a prize?**

A: Generally, no. There are a few exceptions that allow cash prizes (e.g. most duck race and golf ball-drop raffles, blower ball game bazaar, 50/50 bazaar). Churches, Volunteer Fire Companies and Veterans Organizations have additional exceptions.

**Q: May alcohol be given as a prize?**

A: No.

**Q: Can we hire an outside company/person to run the event for us?**

A: No, this is not allowed by state statute. Only active qualified bona fide adult members of the applicant organizations may promote and run the event. People 16 and above may generally sell tickets.

**Q: What can happen if my Organization conducts a charitable gaming event without obtaining the required permit or registration?**

A: Per state statute P.A. 17-231. Persons shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than one year or be both fined and imprisoned for violations. Violations may be referred to the Office of the State's Attorney for investigation and action. Additionally, a permit may be revoked and your organization will be ineligible to obtain a permit for three years.

**Q: May we conduct a "Las Vegas Night" event and/or use a prize wheel, AKA money wheel?**

A: NO. Las Vegas Night events and money/prize wheels have not been legal since January 7, 2003. You may not make your own equipment nor use existing equipment.

**Q: Are auctions and free door prizes (no ticket purchase) regulated the same way?**

A: No, they do not fall under "gaming."

**Q: What is the time frame for obtaining a permit?**

A: Submit your application at least 15 days or more prior to the date you wish to sell tickets/have the event. Submit to Granby Police Department. Most permits will be finalized in fewer than 15 days. Thorough review and investigation are done for each application.

## Requirements for Applications

The applying organization *must* be a qualifying non-profit functioning organization for a minimum two years to conduct Bingo (CGS 7-169c) and minimum six months to conduct Bazaar or Raffle events (Sec 7-172).

For further information visit the Town of Granby website at [www.granby-ct.gov](http://www.granby-ct.gov) and navigate to the Granby Police Department homepage. On the left side navigate to the **Bazaars, Bingo and Raffles** link. Fillable pdf application forms are located here. Those wishing to conduct a gaming event should understand the process. A pdf link to Public Act 17-231 provides useful information.

All required application forms must be **complete, accurate, and truthful**. Incomplete forms will be returned and will result in a delay in processing. Completed applications shall be submitted to the Granby Police Department at least fifteen days prior to the start of the Bazaar, Bingo, and Raffle. The Granby Police Department is open 24/7/365.