

Underage Gambling



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The Law and Penalties

According to state law, Lottery ticket purchasers must be at least 21 years of age. Individuals who sell tickets are required to obtain proof of age through a current valid driver's license, a state-issued ID card, a passport or military or federal ID containing both a photo and date of birth. Any person who knowingly sells to a minor can be fined between \$100 and \$500 for the first offense and \$200 to \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. Underage purchasers can also be fined up to \$100.

The Lottery's retailer regulations hold retailers responsible for their employees' adherence to this law. If retailers are found not to be in compliance, their contracts can be suspended, revoked or terminated.

Individuals who are at least 21 years of age can give Lottery tickets to a person under the minimum age as a gift, although minors must be accompanied by a legal guardian or a family member who is at least 21 years of age in order to claim a Lottery prize. Underage people can sell Lottery tickets if they meet the minimum employment age of 14 and are employed by a licensed Lottery retailer.

The 21 minimum age requirement to purchase Lottery tickets changed from 18 years of age in 1998 to coincide with the age requirement for other forms of gaming in the state. Louisiana is one of only a few states that requires Lottery ticket purchasers to be at least 21 years of age. Most states with lotteries have a minimum age requirement of 18.

Enforcement, Prevention & Education

Although the Lottery is not engaged in law enforcement, it is required to report all suspected violations of underage gambling to the District Attorney or Louisiana Attorney General's Office and local law enforcement. The Lottery's security department investigates any complaints of noncompliance.

The Lottery aggressively promotes the 21 minimum age requirement by printing it on all tickets, news releases, sales material and signage, as well as reinforcing the message in retailer training and communication. In addition, the Lottery is a member of the Louisiana Responsible Vendor Program, which establishes mandatory training and certifies vendors on minimum age requirements for alcohol, tobacco and lottery sales. The program is administered by the state's Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control.

The Lottery has also partnered with the Louisiana Oil Marketers and Convenience Store Association, the Louisiana Retailers Association, the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control and the security departments in its retail chain accounts to educate retailers and their employees about the 21 minimum age requirement.

