

# Special Event Rules in Minnesota

Minnesota law provides five distinct ways in which incentives such as raffles and drawings can be used as part of your annual campaign for United Way of Southwest Minnesota.

## Drawings:

- \* You can have a drawing and give prizes to individuals who contribute to the annual United Way of Southwest Minnesota campaign.
- \* You can offer incentives such as multiple chances in the drawing to individuals who increase their giving, sign up for payroll deduction or the first time, etc.
- \* You cannot charge United Way of Southwest Minnesota for the cost of the prizes or deduct their cost from employee contributions.

## Games of Skill:

- \* You can sell employees a chance to participate in a game of skill. Games of skill include:
  - o Guessing the number of marbles in a mason jar
  - o Answering historical questions
  - o Holding a putting contest, etc.
- \* You cannot have as a game of skill guessing the score or outcome of sporting events.

## Sweepstakes:

- \* You can conduct a sweepstakes (pulling names out of a hat) and you can sell tickets, as long as you also provide an opportunity for free entry to the sweepstakes.
- \* You can, for example, offer tickets and give individuals the option of paying for the ticket or doing something else to obtain the ticket – such as writing a fifty word essay describing their favorite United Way of Southwest Minnesota program, doing volunteer work, etc.

## Door Prizes:

- \* You can enter the names of everyone who attended a campaign meeting or rally into a drawing and award “door prizes.”

## Raffles:

- \* For-profit organizations are allowed to conduct a raffle as long as only paid employees (not the general public) are eligible to participate.

## Sales:

- \* Sales of merchandise (tangible personal property) during your campaign for United Way of Southwest Minnesota are not subject to sales tax if all proceeds (sale price minus cost of item) are given to United Way of Southwest Minnesota. The sale cannot last for more than 24 days.

**For complete information, please refer to  
Minnesota Statutes 609.75 and 297A.70 Subd. 13(c)**

**United Way  
of Southwest Minnesota**

