



**FLORIDA**  
GAMING CONTROL  
COMMISSION

## ABOUT THE FLORIDA GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

The Florida Gaming Control Commission is a five-member regulatory body that is responsible for exercising all regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to gambling, including pari-mutuel wagering, cardrooms, slot machine facilities, oversight of gaming compacts, and other forms of gambling authorized by the State Constitution or law, excluding the state lottery.



Division of Gaming Enforcement  
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# ILLEGAL GAMBLING



## What is a Gambling?

Florida chapter 849.08 defines gambling as playing or engaging in any game at cards, keno, roulette, faro or other game of chance, at any place, by any device whatever, for money or other thing of value.

## Is Gambling Legal In Florida?

Gambling is legal in licensed and regulated locations in Florida. However, with few exceptions, all other wagering, outside of regulated places are strictly illegal.

## Can I Wager on Sporting Events or Athletes?

Florida chapter 849.14 states it is unlawful, and a felony to, “stake, bet, or wager any money or other thing of value upon the result of any trial or contest of skill, speed or power or endurance of human or beast.”

## Am I Breaking the Law when I Have Friends Over to Play Cards?

Florida chapter 849.085 states penny-ante game are allowed, and are defined as a game or series of games of poker, pinochle, bridge, rummy, canasta, hearts, dominoes, or mah-jongg in which the winnings of any player in a single round, hand, or game does not exceed \$10 in value. Penny-ante games may occur at someone’s home as long as they are not receiving anything for allowing the game to occur at their home, there are no

admission fees or any other fees required to participate, the game may not be advertised in any way, and no participants may be under 18 years of age.

## What is a Gambling House?

Florida chapter 849.01 states a “Gambling house” is any place where a gaming table or room, or gaming implements are kept, used, or maintained, or any place kept for the purpose of gaming or gambling. Allowing any person to play for money or anything else of value is a second degree misdemeanor.

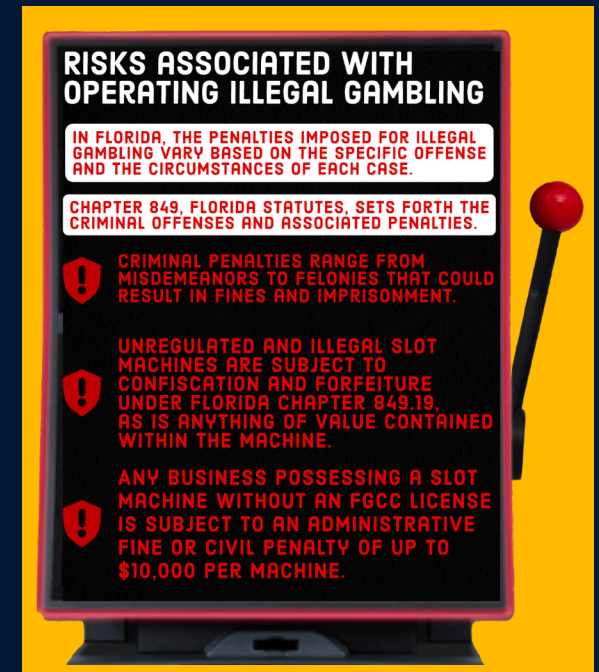
## Are Minors or Mentally Incompetent Persons Allowed to Gamble?

Florida chapter 849.04 states a “proprietor, owner, or keeper of any E. O., keno or pool table, or billiard table, wheel of fortune, or other game of chance kept for the purpose of betting, who willfully and knowingly allows a minor or person who is mentally incompetent or under guardianship to play at such game or to bet on such game of chance; or whoever aids or abets or otherwise encourages such playing or betting of any money or other valuable thing upon the result of such game of chance by a minor or person who is mentally incompetent or under guardianship, commits a felony.”

## What About Bingo?

Florida chapter 849.0931 states that Bingo games are legal for tax-exempt charitable, nonprofit, or veterans’ organizations and the requirements and restrictions placed on legally operating a

Bingo game are very stringent. Violating the state laws on operating a Bingo game can result in a first degree misdemeanor up to a third degree felony.



## How to File a Complaint About an Illegal Slot Machine or Illegal Gambling

Email us at: [TipLine@flgaming.gov](mailto:TipLine@flgaming.gov)

Call us at: 850-895-8125

Or file a complaint at:

[www.flgaming.gov/file-a-complaint/](http://www.flgaming.gov/file-a-complaint/)

