

News Release

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Arizona Department of Gaming Issues Cease-and-Desists on “Phoenix Dream Home Sweepstakes”

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Gaming (“the Department” or “ADG”) issued cease-and-desist orders to Raffall, a company based in the United Kingdom, and to an Arizona resident using the platform to promote the ‘Phoenix Dream Home Sweepstakes,’ currently advertised online and through a separate website, winthisazhome.com, which is marketing the chance to ‘Win a Luxury \$1.3M Arizona Mountainside Home.’

According to the Department’s investigation, the promotion required participants to purchase entries for a prize to be awarded and promised either a home transfer or a cash payout, depending on sales volume. The investigation further determined that the organizers intended to profit from ticket sales. Based on these findings, the Department alleges the activity constitutes an illegal gambling operation under Arizona law.

As part of the enforcement action, Raffall has been directed to remove all gambling-related drawings or giveaways targeting Arizona residents, and the Arizona resident has also been ordered to cease promoting or conducting any unlawful gambling activity.

“Illegal gambling can take many forms and it does not matter if it is labeled a sweepstakes, raffle, giveaway, or drawing,” said Jackie Johnson, Director of the Arizona Department of Gaming. “Unregulated operations put Arizonans at risk because there is no oversight, and therefore no accountability or safeguards in place. The Department will continue to take enforcement action to protect consumers, and we urge the public to learn what is legal before participating in or hosting any gambling activity.”

Why This Operation Is Illegal

Arizona law prohibits gambling unless it is specifically authorized (A.R.S. Title 13, Chapter 33). There is no exception for so-called “sweepstakes.” Raffles may only be conducted by Arizona charitable, tax-exempt organizations (A.R.S. § 13-3302(B) & (C)), and personal profit is prohibited. Only individuals 21 years of age or older may legally participate in gambling in Arizona.

Because this operation is accessible to users under the age of 21, is conducted for personal gain, and is not conducted by a qualified nonprofit, it violates Arizona law. Additional potential felony violations include:

- Promotion of Gambling – A.R.S. § 13-3303
- Illegal Control of an Enterprise – A.R.S. § 13-2312
- Money Laundering – A.R.S. § 13-2317

Furthermore, foreign-based platforms, such as Raffall, do not adhere to Arizona or U.S. gambling laws, leaving consumers without essential protections.

Consumer Protection Advisory

As illegal online gambling activity continues to rise, the Department urges all residents and visitors to be cautious when participating in gaming, whether online or in-person. Regulated gaming provides important consumer protections, ensuring fair play and fair drawings, data security, accountability, and a safer overall experience.

If you purchased entries in this illegal gambling operation:

- **Stop participating immediately** and do not buy additional entries.
- **Contact your bank** or credit card company to dispute the charges or request a chargeback. Your financial institution is the best avenue for seeking a refund.
- **Monitor your accounts** for unauthorized transactions.
- **If you suspect identity theft**, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):
 - IdentityTheft.gov (English)
 - RoboIdentidad.gov (Spanish)

Important: The Department cannot assist with refund requests or individual disputes against unlicensed platforms. Consumers must work through their financial institutions to protect themselves and/or retain legal counsel. They may also file complaints with the Arizona Attorney General's Consumer Information and Complaints Unit at (602) 542-5763 or azag.gov/consumer.

If you encounter other suspicious gaming activity:

1. **Document** the website URL, app name, business name, and any promotional materials.
2. **Report it** to the Department at publicaffairs@azgaming.gov and the Arizona Attorney General's Consumer Information and Complaints Unit at (602) 542-5763 or azag.gov/consumer.
3. **Cease activity** on the platform and monitor your financial accounts for unauthorized transactions.
4. **If you suspect identity theft**, report it to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):
 - IdentityTheft.gov (English)
 - RoboIdentidad.gov (Spanish)

The Department takes complaints about all illegal gambling seriously. Reports can be made anonymously.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [event wagering & fantasy sports contests](#), [racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention, and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT STEP.

NOTE TO MEDIA: The Department and its Division of Problem Gambling encourage media partners to include supportive resources when reporting on gambling, event wagering, fantasy sports, or other wagering-related activities:

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, you can get help now by calling the confidential helpline at 1-800-NEXT-STEP (1-800-639-8783), texting “NEXTSTEP” to 53342, or using the chat feature at problemgambling.az.gov. The helpline connects callers with statewide providers specializing in low and no-cost treatment for problem gambling and financial counseling. Help is available 24/7 for individuals, family members, friends, and co-workers.

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