

## Lottery Tickets

I know a person who is on welfare and uses the money to purchase lottery tickets. Is this legal?

Texas Government Code 466.3053 clearly states that it is illegal and a person commits an offense if they use proceeds of a check issued as payment under the “Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program” to purchase lottery tickets, also if they use food stamp coupons issued under the food stamp program.



It is also a violation for the store or business to knowingly accept them. The only way by law a lottery ticket may be purchased is by a) a personal check, b) cash, c) a debit card through a bank or other financial institution or d) a coupon or voucher issued by the commission for the purpose of purchasing a lottery ticket. Any other method is a Class “C” misdemeanor.

While we are talking about purchasing lottery tickets, it is also against the law if a person for financial gain starts or promotes a group purchase or pooling arrangement. No one can charge to join a pool or take a cut out of the pool money for starting the pool. They cannot use any of the funds solicited for any purpose except to purchase the tickets on behalf of the group or pool, nor can they retain any part of the winnings for compensation for starting the pool. A violation of this Government Code 466.3054 is a third degree felony.

I hope I have answered your question for the most part. If you need any additional information, you may contact my office or the Harris County district attorney’s office.

Thank you,

Constable Ken Jones