

Guidelines for the use of Raffles/Drawings in Research

The Chapman University Institutional Review Board (CUIRB) requires that protocols using raffles as drawings must follow the guidelines below. There are particular Internal Revenue Service requirements that need to be adhered to when offering raffles. Please incorporate these guidelines into all submissions that use raffles.

California state law (like many other states) places restrictions on the use of raffles. As a general rule, participation in a raffle cannot be conditioned on providing some form of consideration (usually the consideration is money). For example, raffles often have language stating that "no purchase is necessary" in order to participate. Again, this is because individuals cannot be required to provide consideration in order to be eligible to participate in the raffle.

Applying these statutory requirements to a research project, the following is required:

1. Do not preclude individuals who either refuse to participate in the research project or fail to complete the project, from participating in the raffle. In other words, it must be clear to individuals who are eligible to participate in the research project (i.e., survey) that they do not have to participate in the project in order for them to be eligible for the raffle.
2. Place specific language in your informed consent form or information sheet:
 - that it is not necessary for a subject to complete the project (i.e., survey) in order to participate in the raffle
 - on the odds/chances of winning the raffle. (Note: the odds can be calculated as a function of the anticipated number of participants in the study and the number of prizes offered. It is possible to qualify that the exact odds will depend on the number of participants.)
3. If individuals who are not invited to participate in the research ask to be included in the raffle (not likely in most scenarios), you must include them.
4. The CUIRB will review the raffle for purposes of determining whether the prize could be construed as "coercive."

If you have further questions, please contact the CUIRB staff at: irb@chapman.edu or by phone at: 714-628-2833.



Revision history:

25Mar2025 - added language specifying that the odds of winning the raffle must be included in the informed consent form or information sheet.

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