



KEEPING IT SAFE

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE SERVICES

240-777-1904

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/abs>

Division of Licensure, Regulation and Education

ATTENTION LICENSED FACILITIES

Don't fall prey to spring fever promotions...

GAMBLING (or Gaming) is illegal both in the county and state within licensed facilities if it meets the following three criteria ...

- Consideration (a payment is required of a participant in order to play a game);
- A game of chance; and
- A reward or prize.



Gambling is...

If a participant pays to play in Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments, Las Vegas and Casino Nights, Raffles, Bingo and similar activities of chance and then becomes eligible to win money or a prize (including chips for additional playtime when others have to pay- constitutes value) as a result of playing the game, this activity constitutes illegal gambling and is not permitted on any licensed facility, or anywhere in Maryland.



Gambling is not...

- If a patron pays to play one of these games, but no money or prizes of any type whatsoever are provided for the winners of the games, playing does not constitute gambling.
- A game of recognized skill, such playing as a sport, does not constitute a game of chance.
- If a patron does not pay to play one of these games, prizes are permitted, and playing does not constitute gambling. Payment includes, among other things, a cover charge, the purchase of chips or a ticket, a requirement of a donation, a requirement of a minimum purchase of food or drink, or a requirement that a patron make a payment off site prior to entering the facility as a prerequisite for playing at the facility.

Charity Events...In event of a raffle or bingo tournament for a charity, special permits must be obtained by filing an application with Licensure and Regulatory Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov for more information and applications.

Applicable laws: A person may not bet, wager or gamble, and that person may not establish, keep, rent, use, or occupy, or knowingly allow to be established, kept, rented, used or occupied, all or part of a building for the purpose of betting, wagering or gambling. Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Law Article, § 12-102; It is unlawful for any person to play at any game of chance for any sum of money or other property of any value. § 23-1, Montgomery County Code; It is unlawful for a person to set up, keep, maintain or conduct any gaming table or any house for the purpose of gaming or to manage or be interested financially in any gaming table, house or establishment maintained for gaming in the county, or in the profits thereof. § 23-2, Montgomery County Code.