



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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SLOT MACHINES



What is a Slot Machine?

The definition of a Slot Machine in Florida Chapter 849.16 is broad and encompassing. However, the generalized understanding of a slot machine is; a machine or device that is activated by accepting something of value (or a representation of value) is caused to operate or operated by a user, has an outcome that is unpredictable to the user, and in which the user receives or is entitled to receive something of value or additional chances or rights to use the device or machine.

Are Slot Machines Legal In Florida?

Florida Chapter 551.101 states that slot machines are only authorized in licensed pari-mutuel facilities located in Miami-Dade and Broward counties and on tribal property. Off of licensed pari-mutuel facilities, it is a violation of Florida Chapter 849.15(1)(a), "To manufacture, own, store, keep, possess, sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away, transport, or expose for sale or lease, or to offer to sell, rent, lease, let on shares, lend or give away, or permit the operation of any slot machine or device or any part thereof."

Florida Chapter 849.36(5) states it is the duty of every peace officer in Florida to seize and take possession of any vehicle, vessel, or gambling device/paraphernalia used in violation of Florida Chapter 849.

How Do I Know If I Have a Slot Machine?

To determine if you have a slot machine, ask yourself, does the machine meet the definition of a slot machine in Florida Chapter 849.16? Also, Florida Chapter 849.16(3) states that if images of games of chance are displayed on the machine or device as part of a scheme involving payment of money or something of value, the machine is presumed to be a slot machine.

Are There Exceptions That Make Slot Machines Legal?

Florida law prohibits owning or operating a slot machine for non-profit organizations, charitable donations, or any other purpose. Slot machines are only legal on licensed pari-mutuel facilities and tribal property.

What are the penalties?

Unlicensed slot machines are illegal in Florida and are considered "contraband." Florida Chapter 849.19 states, as contraband, "the right of property to an illegal slot machine and all the money or other things of value within the slot machine, does not exist and shall be forfeited to the county in which the seizure took place."

Florida Chapter 849.12 states that all sums of money and other value used, displayed in, or connected with illegal gaming shall be forfeited.

Florida Chapter 849.03 states that the owner or agent who rents any location for the purpose of gaming has committed a misdemeanor.

In Florida Chapter 849.231(2), any occupational license (*business permit, alcohol or liquor license, etc.*) held by a person found guilty of violating gambling statutes shall be suspended for a period not to exceed five (5) years.

Any person who possesses a slot machine without the license required by Chapter 551 or who possesses a slot machine at any location other than at the slot machine licensee's facility is subject to an administrative fine or civil penalty of up to \$10,000 per machine. (Florida Chapter 551.109(2))

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

Email us at:

TipLine@flgaming.gov

Call us at:

850-895-8125

Or file a complaint at:

www.flgaming.gov/file-a-complaint/

