Frequently Asked Questions – Winner Anonymity

Can Texas Lottery prize winners remain anonymous?

The 85th legislative regular session enacted HB 59 authorizing certain prize winners who win lottery prizes in the amount of $1 million or more to choose to remain anonymous.

In addition, Texas Lottery Commission (TLC) Rule §401.324 governs the nondisclosure of personally identifiable information (Information that alone or in conjunction with other information identifies an individual: name, social security number, date of birth, or government-issued ID number such as driver's license or passport. It does not include the name of the prize winner's city or county of residence.) of certain lottery prize winners.

HB 59 and TLC Rule §401.324 apply to lottery winner claims submitted on or after January 1, 2018.

Who is Eligible to Remain Anonymous

- A natural person (individual) who is a winner of a lottery prize of $1 million (non-annuity) or more;
- A natural person (individual) who is a beneficial interest owner of a legal entity winner of a lottery prize of $1 million (non-annuity) or more.

The amount of a lottery prize is determined by the total amount paid in a single claim.

Limitations

- Winners must specify their choice on the appropriate TLC claim form when they claim their prize.
- If a winner chooses to receive periodic installment payments (annuity), the prohibition on releasing the winner’s name lasts only until the 30th day after the person claims the lottery prize.
- Names of legal entity prize winners and authorized representatives (who are not beneficial owners) may be released by TLC at any time after making a claim for a lottery prize.

Required Identification for Claim Processing

- The choice to remain anonymous does not prohibit TLC from requiring government-issued identification, e.g., driver's license, social security card or passport, of winners for claim processing purposes. Claim Center procedures for required identification have not changed.
4 Winner Claim Forms are Based on the Prize Amount and/or the Type of Claimant

Individual Claimants for $1 million or more – must include Media Relations and Advertising Form

Legal Entities for $1 million or more – must include Media Relations and Advertising Form

Individual Claimants under $1 million

Legal Entities under $1 million