

NCEL SECURITY DIVISION

LOTTERY TICKET DEFACEMENT A RETAILER REQUIREMENT

It is very important to dispose of lottery tickets the correct way. Tickets (instant/online) must be properly defaced when validated by a clerk per the defacement policy ([8.01—Retailer Rules and Regulations, Section C \(16\)](#)). It is the retailer's responsibility to immediately deface all winning tickets once the prize has been paid.

There are four ways to officially deface tickets:

- *Tear the ticket in half. Tearing the ticket is an obvious method of preventing payout of already paid tickets.*
- *Use a permanent marker to draw a black line through the barcode.*
- *Write "Paid" on the ticket.*
- *Punch a hole on the barcode.*

*****Once validated, do not give back a winning ticket to the player*****

- *It is the NCEL policy to pay out all non defaced winning tickets, even if they have been previously validated.*
- *Clerks should remember that your store could pay twice, for one ticket, if not defaced properly.*
- *The prize amount will be debited from the retailer that originally scanned the ticket for failing to deface the ticket.*