

# Fantasy poker tournaments draw AG's attention

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By: News 8 Austin Staff

**Texas Hold 'em is the latest craze at many bars and restaurants.**



The businesses pay a fee to host a free fantasy poker tournament which allows players to earn points and qualify for a state championship.

But the fantasy poker grand prize winner gets a trip worth \$10,000 and some officials are questioning the game's legality.

"Since at the tail end of the process you get money, I think up front it's gambling," Williamson County Attorney's Office representative Dale

Rye said.

"I understand that they want to look at it because gambling is illegal in Texas and if we're breaking the law we should be shut down, but we're not breaking the law," Bryant Shurley of the Fantasy Poker League said.

No money changes hands between any of the players in fantasy poker; the game is meant for entertainment only.

The Texas Attorney General's Office is looking into these so-called legal poker games and is expected to issue legal clarification soon.