



Giving Lottery Tickets to Children is something you should avoid

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SPOKESPERSON: *Available for comment/interview*
Rose Blozinski, Executive Director, WCPG- 920-437-8888

(Green Bay, WI) – There are many gifts you can give a child for Christmas, but lottery tickets are not one of them says the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG).

“Buying lottery tickets and other types of gambling are a form of entertainment for most people and can be fun but for five percent to seven percent of Wisconsin’s population gambling can be a problem,” Blozinski said. “Problem gambling is a growing concern among adolescents. We feel it’s important to let parents, grandparents and others know that lottery tickets are not a good gift choice for children.

The National Council on Problem Gambling reports that there is strong evidence suggesting that more than 70 percent of adolescents have gambled for money in the past year, approximately 30 percent report gambling on a weekly basis, and many current problem gamblers report beginning gambling during childhood, often by age nine.

WCPG is a statewide organization that provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG operates a Problem Gambling Helpline, Text and Chat line that are available 24/7 as a resource for anyone facing a gambling problem.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 850-888-HOPE or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>