



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

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WCPG Says Avoid Lottery Tickets as Gifts for Kids

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – The holiday season is here. Stores are busy with holiday gift buyers. But finding that last minute stocking suffer can be a challenge.

If you're looking to buy lottery tickets or scratch-off tickets, Rose Gruber says it's important to consider the age of the person getting the gift. Gruber, the Executive Director for the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG), is urging people to think twice before buying lottery tickets for children.

“Problem gambling is a growing concern among young people and we think it's important for parents, grandparents and other adults to avoid giving lottery tickets or scratch-offs to a child,” Gruber said. “Certainly, buying lottery tickets and other types of gambling are a form of entertainment for most people. Still, gambling is a problem for an estimated five percent to seven percent of the general population in Wisconsin and that rate is nearly double for young people.”

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.

“Lotteries should not be for children,” Gruber said. “If you choose to offer lottery or scratch-off tickets as holiday gifts, be sure to keep the person's age in mind.”

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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 [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) or visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

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