



## According to the National Council on Problem Gambling:

- Crimes by compulsive gamblers place an increased stress on the legal and court system.
- Suicide rates are 20 times higher among pathological gamblers.
- 65% of compulsive gamblers commit crimes to finance their gambling.
- 6-20% of adolescents develop gambling problems.
- People who have other addictions are at a higher risk of becoming addicted to gambling.
- Senior citizens and adolescents are at high risk to become addicted to gambling.
- 2 million (1%) of U.S. adults are estimated to meet criteria for pathological gambling in a given year. Another 4-6 million (2-3%) would be considered problem gamblers.



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## The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling:

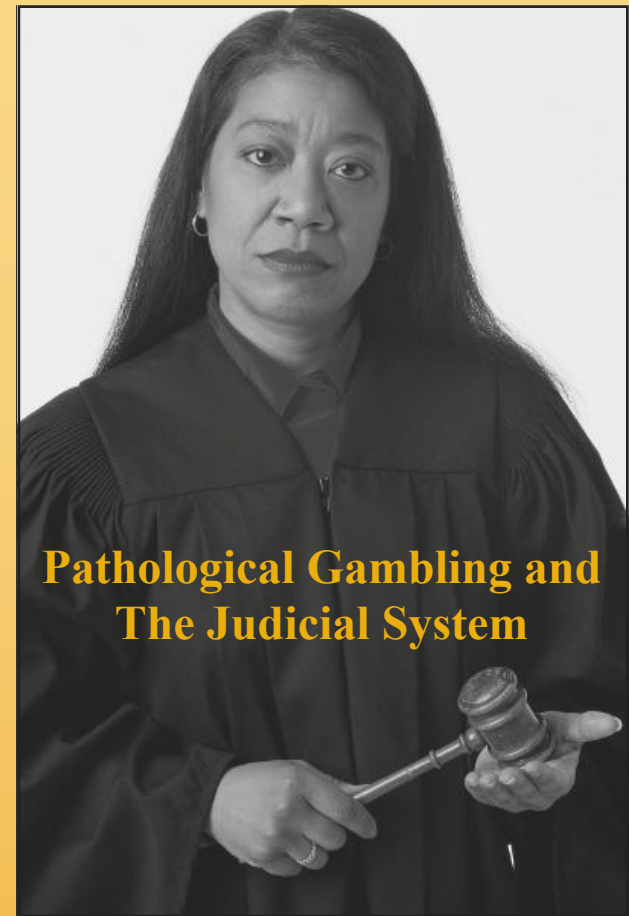
- Provides education and awareness on problem and compulsive gambling disorders.
- Offers a 24-hour helpline.
- Provides training for treatment providers.
- Maintains neutrality on the topic of legalized gambling.
- Is a model for other states in the country.
- Is one of the 35 affiliates of the National Council on Problem Gambling in Washington, D.C.
- Is the only organization in Wisconsin dedicated to assisting thousands of problem and compulsive gamblers.

**Wisconsin Council on  
Problem Gambling, Inc.**  
**24-Hour Helpline**  
**1-800-GAMBLE-5**  
**(1-800-426-2535)**



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## Pathological Gambling and The Judicial System



The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on problem and pathological gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

## Did you know that problem gamblers:

- May lie about their gambling?
- May hide their losses?
- May chase losses?
- May gamble in spite of the consequences?
- May borrow money to gamble with?
- May deplete savings and insurance?
- May use gambling as a coping mechanism?

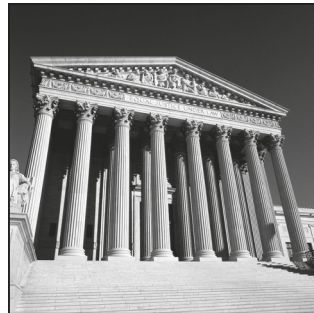
Many compulsive gamblers are homeless, hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt, may have filed bankruptcy, committed illegal acts or attempted suicide. They are not the only ones affected by their addiction. The gambling addiction affects families, friends and employers.



## Gambling Affects Everyone!

- Approximately 333,000 Wisconsin residents have a gambling problem.
- Compulsive gamblers are more likely not to pay their taxes.
- 14,464 people called the WCPG Helpline in 2012 as compared to 4,742 in 1999.
- In 2012, the average debt of the Helpline callers was: \$38,849.
- Female gamblers calling the WCPG 24-hour Helpline have increased 144% since 1996.
- Calls to WCPG 24-hour Helpline have increased 321% since 1996.

**The gambler who borrows to play is no longer a recreational gambler.**



## What can you do?

The next time some of the “facts” just don’t add up, take a closer look at the patterns of your client's life.

- Make the referral to the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling’s 24-hour helpline.
- Encourage gamblers and their family/friends to attend a GA or Gam-Anon meeting.
- Have patience.
- Listen.
- Be positive.
- Do not criticize.
- Understand that relapse can be part of the recovery process.

**1-800-GAMBLE-5 (1-800-426-2535)**

