

# FINDING HELP

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling has a 24 Hour Helpline that provides information and referrals for gamblers, family members, and concerned friends or employers of gamblers who have financial, legal or other difficulties because of their gambling.



**HELP IS JUST A  
CALL AWAY AT  
1-800-GAMBLE-5**

## **Mission Statement:**

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



**WISCONSIN COUNCIL  
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING**

The Council's public awareness campaign is funded by the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services, Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery.

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# INTERNET GAMBLING



Remote gambling is any form of gambling in which a person does not have to be physically present. It can be conducted from the safety of a gambler's own home, car, airplane, street corner, café, school room, board room, or any place a remote device is operable.

**1-800-GAMBLE-5**

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# REMOTE GAMBLING

## Gambling at your Fingertips—EVERYWHERE

### What makes Remote Gambling a growing concern?

- It is immediate - accessed from anywhere, any-time
- It is a solitary endeavor
- It is more hidden than other forms of gambling
- Others know that it is a problem after their lives have been painfully affected

### Remote Gambling includes:

- Internet sites which include any form of betting imaginable
- Mobile, blackberry, tablets and other forms of text messaging and internet/web access
- Cell phone, telephone
- Interactive TV

### Facts on Remote Gambling:

- Internet has over 2500 gambling sites and the number is growing daily
- Online poker has over 400 websites and growing daily
- Presently there are over 5 million transactions conducted per day, or an average of about 300 bets per second
- There is no US regulation on how the sites control payouts and percentages of payoffs. The sites could manipulate the gambler to think they are skilled and can outplay the others on the site. Once winning and playing with greater amounts of money the site will decrease the gambler's odds and take the winnings back with interest.

### Attractive to persons who:

- Want immediate access
- Are socially shy and lack confidence
- Prefer privacy
- Are uncomfortable with physical nearness to others
- Are disabled and do not want to be seen as different

- Want to decrease social barriers based on sex, race, age, disability
- Want to be someone they are not

### Remote Gambling makes the gambler feel:

- Disinhibited-people do and say things in cyberspace that they wouldn't ordinarily say in the real world
- Interactive with others without face to face contact
- As if they can escape and get away from the real world
- Intelligent, skilled and all powerful until they start losing

### Thoughts of the Remote Gambler:

- You don't know me - anonymity
- You can't see me - invisibility
- See you later - don't relate in real time, wait for messages
- It's just a game - real money does not change hands - it's all credits
- We're equals - authority really does not exist

### What Remote Gambling Provides:

- **Gratification:** No waiting, instant
- **Anticipation:** Removed, instant action, adrenalin rush
- **Companion:** Always there when needed
- **Shadow:** Always with you, cell phone mobility
- **Fantasy:** Takes you to it, changes persona
- **Expression:** In a private world, more satisfying than real life
- **Ego:** Boosts fragile/bruised ego
- **Constraints:** Lacking boundaries. Limits only by extent of cash/credit
- **Chasing:** Several times a day, PC is a beckoning finger. (Bellringer, 2006)
- **A Chance:** To lose financial resources, friends, jobs, family, freedom, etc.

Information taken from the National Council on Problem Gambling.

Remote gambling does not include face - to - face encounters. It is solitary and unmonitored.

*Awareness of this problem needs to be a family matter. The most likely people to discover the gambling problem are family and friends, those closest to the gambler.*

## GamBlock

GamBlock ([www.Gamblock.com](http://www.Gamblock.com)) is specifically designed to block access to online gambling. More specifically, GamBlock prevents personal and business computers from using gambling, wagering or gambling facilities on the Internet.

All versions of GamBlock prevent access to all forms of gambling, including, but not limited to, spread betting, fantasy games, lotteries, bingo, sports book, sweepstakes, gambling software, and sites that pertain to "real world" gambling.

The GamBlock program may be purchased for one year and is designed to be unremovable during 12 month period. Costs vary to individuals, businesses and organizations.



[www.Gamblock.com](http://www.Gamblock.com)