



Think Again When Giving Lottery Tickets to Children

For Immediate Release

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(Green Bay, WI) – The holiday season is upon us. But as you consider what to put in that stocking or under the tree, Rose Gruber says think twice about buying lottery tickets for the youngsters in your life.

Gruber is the Executive Director of the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG), the statewide organization with a mission of providing resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

“Some gifts just aren’t meant for children,” Gruber said. “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 kids.”

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.

“Certainly, buying lottery tickets and other types of gambling are a form of entertainment for most people,” Gruber said. “But lotteries are not for children. If you choose to offer lottery or scratch-off tickets as holiday gifts, be sure to keep the person’s age in mind.”

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 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.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>

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