

Pathological Gambling and the Judicial System

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.

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.
- 6-12% 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.

Sample guidelines for responsible gambling include:

- Know the risks involved
- Plan ahead and set a dollar limit
- Set a time limit
- Expect to lose
- Do not gamble on credit
- Create balance in your life
- Avoid chasing lost money
- Do not gamble as a way to cope

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem call:

1-800-GAMBLE-5

Live chat

www.wi-problemgamblers.org

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