Understanding the Risk, Knowing the Signs & How to Find Help

**According to the National Council on Problem Gambling**

- Crimes by compulsive gamblers place increased stress on our legal and court system.
- Suicide rates are much higher among pathological gamblers.
- The majority of compulsive gamblers commit crimes to finance their gambling.
- People who have other addictions are at a higher risk of becoming addicted to gambling.

**The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling**

- Provides education and awareness on the issue of problem and compulsive gambling.
- Provides training for treatment providers.
- Offers at 24-hour Helpline.
- Maintains neutrality on the topic of legalized gambling.
- Is a model for other states in the country.
- Is one of 36 affiliates on 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.

**Problem Gambling & The Military**

Help is just a call away
1-800-GAMBLE-5
(1-800-426-2535)

**Did You Know Problem Gamblers...**

- May consider lying about their gambling?
- May gamble in spite of the consequences?
- May hide their losses?
- May chase losses?
- May gamble in spite of the consequences?
- May borrow money to gamble?
- May deplete savings and insurance?

Scan this QR code with your smart phone to view our website.
Military personnel and their families find gambling readily available to them wherever they live - stateside or overseas. For many who choose to gamble, the activity is a pleasant diversion from the day. For a small percentage, the potential for problem gambling is a reality with huge consequences.

The immediate financial impact on the individual and the family can be devastating. The mental health risks to individuals in the military include depression, PTSD, downtime and boredom when stationed in certain areas. Problem gambling has become an additional potential risk.

Most of the stresses accompanying a military life create a perfect environment for problem gambling. No matter what the starting point, the problem “coupled with bad choices” is repeated again and again. Many of these individuals are your relatives and friends.

The military expects them to do their job. The additional stress of the gambling problem makes it difficult if not impossible. Compulsive gamblers are addicted to a behavior that is destroying their world: one bill, one marriage, one deal, one business, one relationship at a time.

The uniform and the unit of the individual serving in the military is to be respected at all times. When behaviors spiral out of control, the cost of embarrassment could be devastating to both.

If you think you are repeating dangerous behaviors, due to problem gambling, seek professional help before you do something damaging to your career, your family, your uniform and your unit.

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. It affects families, friends and employers.

Gambling Affects Everyone

- Approximately 333,000 Wisconsin residents have a gambling problem.
- Compulsive gamblers are most likely not to buy homes.
- Compulsive gamblers are most likely not to take vacations.
- Compulsive gamblers are most likely not to pay their taxes.
- Annual calls to the WCPG Helpline have averaged more than 14,000 in recent years.
- Calls to the 24-hour Helpline have increased more than 325% since its inception in 1996.
- The average debt of Helpline callers has been near $45,000 in the last several years.