



Giving Lottery Tickets to Children is something you should avoid

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SPOKESPERSON: *Available for comment/interview*

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(Green Bay, WI) – There are many gifts you can give a child for Christmas, but lottery tickets are not one of them says the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG).

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling encourages adults not to give lottery tickets to underage children/teens as holiday gifts – many problem gamblers report that they began gambling during childhood.

“Problem gambling is a growing concern among adolescents. We feel it’s important to let parents, grandparents and others know that lottery tickets are not a good gift choice for children”, says Rose Blozinski, Executive Director.

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.

When sensible, provide alternative gift ideas for last-minute shoppers such as... • Puzzles/board games • Picture or chapter books • Card games • Journals • Art supplies • Gift cards or money • Nail polish, lotion, or bubble bath • Mugs or reusable water bottles • Candy or snacks • Video Games/DVDs • Stuffed animals • Candles • Toy cars • Phone case.

WCPG is a statewide organization that provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling. The WCPG operates a Problem Gambling Helpline, Text and Chat line that are available 24/7 as a resource for anyone facing a gambling problem.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-426-2535, Text at 1-850-888-4673 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 1-800-426-2535, 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](#) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>