



WISCONSIN COUNCIL
ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

1423 Kellogg Street • Green Bay, WI 54303
800-426-2535 • 920-437-8888

Problem Gambling 101: Be sure your student knows the risks

For Immediate Release

August 20, 2009

(Green Bay, WI) – With another school year just around the corner, families are thinking about new clothes, pencils and notebooks, meeting new friends and teachers and everything else that goes with a new school year. The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling (WCPG) would also like families to talk about gambling.

“Parents should know that teens and young adults are among the highest risk groups for developing gambling problems with the teen problem gambling rate twice as high as the rate for adults,” said Rose Gruber, WCPG Executive Director. “With young people constantly exposed to gambling through advertising, TV poker or Internet gaming, they should understand what gambling is and know the consequences of gambling.”

Gruber says awareness is crucial to heading off potential problems, adding that it’s particularly important for parents to discuss gambling with their children as they leave for college. “Students living in a new environment will have new choices about what to do with their free time,” Gruber said. “If a student is going to gamble, there should be limits.”

Gruber suggests that teen gamblers answer the following questions honestly:

- Is gambling the most exciting activity in your life?
- Do you borrow money to gamble?
- Have you sold personal belongings to get money to gamble?
- Have you stolen from your family, roommate, friends or others to gamble or to pay back gambling debts?
- Do you miss school, activities, work or other events due to gambling?
- Are you preoccupied with thoughts of gambling?
- After losing, do you try to win your money back from gambling?
- Have you tried to stop gambling but can’t?

Answering yes to several of the above questions may be indication of a gambling problem. For teens, or anyone, who think they may have a gambling problem, help is available through the

(more)

Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling. WCPG operates a statewide, toll-free, 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5.

As students return to classes, Gruber is also gearing up for presentations to classes throughout the state. During the 2008-09 school year, presentations were made to about 30 classes, reaching more than 650 students.

###

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 www.wi-problemsgamblers.org.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problems, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

Media Contact:

Scott Stein
Leonard & Finco Public Relations
(920) 965-7750
SStein@LFpublicrelations.com
www.LFpublicrelations.com