Gambling Defined

Gambling is defined as any activity (eg: a game of chance or skill) where an item of value is placed at risk in an attempt to gain something of greater value.

Did you know that 60% of adults in the U.S. have gambled in the past year? In NYS, 5% of adults have experienced a gambling problem in the past year and may be in need of treatment.

How might that impact your workplace?

Effect on the Workplace

Although not often recognized, problem gambling is a significant workforce issue. The effects of a gambling problem almost always spill over into the workplace. This occurs through either the gambler themselves or a family member who is living with the effects of a gambling problem.

- Lost time
- Lost productivity
- Desperation can lead to theft, fraud, or embezzlement

What does it look like?

- Office pools
  - Sports - fantasy sports, NCAA brackets, etc.
  - When is the baby coming?
- Lottery tickets as gifts or incentives
- Group purchasing of lottery tickets
- Encouraging or hosting activities at a casino or other gaming facility

Workplace Warning Signs

Work performance deteriorates.
- Preoccupied
- Trouble concentrating
- Absent or late for meetings
- Missed assignment deadlines
- Excessive use of telephone for personal calls
- Frequent, unexplained absences or disappearances from work.

Changes in Behavior and Mood.
- Pay is requested in lieu of vacation time.
- Eager to organize and participate in betting opportunities
- Increasingly spends more time gambling during lunch and coffee breaks.
- Frequently borrows money, argues with co-workers about money that is owed to them.
- Complains about mounting debts.
- Experiences mood swings, often related to winning and losing streaks.
- Credit card or loan bills are mailed to work rather than home.

Desperation.
- False claims are made against expense accounts.
- Theft of company property.

For more information

Contact your local Problem Gambling Resource Center at NYProblemGamblingHELP.org