

# Gambling in the Workplace: Information for Employers



# NYCPG

New York Council on Problem Gambling

## 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?

## Effects 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](http://NYProblemGamblingHELP.org)