

Problem Gambling News and Events

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Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling-888-ADMIT-IT(236-4848)

Internet Sweepstakes– Is It Gambling?

Warning Signs of Problem Gambling

- *Preoccupation with Gambling*
- *Risking Relationships*
- *Gambling to Escape*
- *Relying on Bailouts*
- *Increasing Bets to Sustain Thrill*
- *Concealing Activity*
- *Loss of Control*
- *Chasing Losses*
- *Illegal Activities*
- *Agitated when Stopping or Cutting Back*

Check these out!!!!

www.gamblinghelp.org

<http://gamblinghelp.org/forums/>

Books:

Personal Foul
 Tim Donaghy

Gambling in America
 Earl L. Grinols

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call 1-888-236-4848 for information and resources.

HELP STARTS HERE

There are dozens of Internet Sweepstakes Centers in Florida. Their popularity has increased greatly over the last 2 years with Floridians but there is quite a dilemma regarding these facilities which is; is it gambling? These places are not regulated by the state and are more or less, dealt with on a county or city basis as far as legality. Some counties have been very vigilant in shutting them down as they feel they violate gambling laws set by the state while other counties simply let them be. The owners of these centers state that they are not promoting gambling and patrons are simply buying Internet time and can surf the web while their sweepstakes entries are being revealed. However, no many seem to be “surfing” the web while this is happening, they are playing slot machine like games to try and rack up

credits that can be redeemed for cash. Moreover, individuals are having problems due to these establishments. They are becoming addicted at a rapid rate and are suffering severe consequences. The players these centers attract are a different demographic than what the FCCG usually sees in that they are lower income, mostly female and a high percentage of older adults. These individuals may not have typically gambled at a casino but now, there is gambling right in their hometown that appears to offer the same experience and the same effect. If you or someone you know has a problem, call 1-888-ADMIT-IT for workbooks, resources and referrals that can help.



Internet Sweepstakes Facts

- The FCCG has received dozens of calls from people who are experiencing problem due to these centers since 2009.
- 80% are women
- Average household income is below \$25,000
- 40% are older adults (55+)
- 50% are retired or unemployed
- 25% have committed illegal acts to finance their gambling
- 92% are depressed due to their gambling problem

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