



LIGHTS ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

Behaviors Observable in the Workplace

Approximately 25% of individuals who call the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) HelpLine claim their gambling problem negatively impacts upon their job. Problem gambling can result in substantial economic loss among employers of all sizes. If left undiscovered and untreated, a gambling problem will eventually turn a valuable employee into a liability. In addition to decreased productivity and attendance issues, many companies fall victim to theft of property and funds at the hands of a problem gambler.

Shining the light on problem gambling.

Know the Signs

Compulsive gambling has been called the “hidden disease,” as there are few overt signs of it in the workplace until the problem is in its most advanced stage. Astute observers may, however, pick up clues.

- Consistent borrowing of money from coworkers
- Constant talk about gambling
- Visible evidence of gambling (i.e. racing forms, lottery tickets)
- Excessive and/or unexplained phone or computer use non-work related
- Absence from the workstation beyond scheduled breaks
- Decrease in productivity and/or negative change in appearance
- Tardiness and other attendance issues
- Organizes office pools and trips to gambling destinations
- Subject to garnishment of wages, seeks pay advances or borrows from pension fund
- Steals from co-workers or employer
- Vacations primarily around gambling activities

For more information and a FREE toolkit for HR on workplace gambling or problem gambling in the workplace, call the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling at 888-ADMIT-IT or email fccg@gamblinghelp.org.

If an employer allows any form of gambling in the workplace (i.e. office pools, raffles, casino nights), the company can be held liable for financial losses sustained.