



Massachusetts Council on
Compulsive Gambling

We understand the problem. We can help.

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CONTACT: Margot Cahoon / Communications Specialist
Mass Council on Compulsive Gambling
margot@masscompulsivegambling.org
Office - 617-426-4554

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BIGGEST "GAMBLING DAY" OF THE YEAR

Massachusetts Council Offers Support to People Experiencing Problems with Sports Gambling

BOSTON, MA – The countdown is on for Super Bowl XLIII, a match up between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Arizona Cardinals to be held in Tampa Bay on February 1, 2009. As this exciting annual sports event approaches, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling wants the public to be aware that help is available at the time of the Super Bowl, and throughout the year, for anyone experiencing problems with sports gambling.

Sports betting is big business and the Super Bowl alone generates an estimated \$10 billion in legal and illegal gambling annually (forbes.com/2008/11/28/macedonia-betting-gambling-oped). Kathleen M. Scanlan, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling reports, "The Super Bowl's gambling opportunities can be recreational for some, but can be a serious problem with potentially devastating social, financial and emotional consequences for others." According to Scanlan, "The Super Bowl can be difficult for people who are experiencing a gambling problem, and also for those who are recovering from a gambling problem, as office pools and other Super Bowl activities can be a source of stress and internal conflict."

Symptoms of a gambling problem include being preoccupied with gambling, betting increasing amounts of money over time, repeated unsuccessful attempts to stop or control gambling, and chasing losses. The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling operates a toll-free, confidential, helpline 24-hours a day, 7-days a week and encourages anyone who is concerned about their own or a loved one's gambling to call 1-800-426-1234.

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The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit health agency dedicated to reducing the social, financial and emotional costs of problem gambling. The Council provides prevention, information, education, advocacy, and referral services for problem gamblers, their loved ones and the greater community.