



Massachusetts Council on  
**Compulsive Gambling**

*We understand the problem. We can help.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUPER BOWL SUNDAY BIGGEST "GAMBLING DAY" OF THE YEAR**

*Council Offers Support to People Experiencing Problems with Sports Gambling*

**BOSTON, MA** – The countdown is on for Super Bowl XXXIX, between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles. That is why, during this exciting time in sports, the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling wants the public to know that help is available for anyone experiencing problems with sports gambling.

Super Bowl Sunday is the biggest "gambling day" of the year for sports bettors. In fact, experts estimate that \$4 billion was wagered on the Super Bowl in 2004. A significant amount of this total was expected to be wagered over the Internet, which is illegal in the United States. (*Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc.*)

For some people, recreational gambling is not a problem. For others, it is a serious problem with potentially devastating social, financial and emotional consequences. "Sports betting alone accounts for approximately one third of the calls to our Helpline," said Kathleen Scanlan, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling. "Many people don't realize that gambling can become a serious problem much like alcohol or drug dependency," she concluded

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. For more signs please visit the Council website at [www.masscompulsivegambling.org](http://www.masscompulsivegambling.org).

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling operates a toll-free Helpline (1-800-GAM-1234) and anyone who is concerned about his or her own or a loved one's gambling problem is encouraged to call. The Helpline, which is staffed by trained specialists, is confidential and available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

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