



Massachusetts Council on
Compulsive Gambling

We understand the problem. We can help.

WE NEED YOU
Please Help Carry the Message

Dear Potential Speaker:

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling needs your help in educating the community about problem gambling. Will you consider carrying the message by sharing your personal experience as a spokesperson for the Council?

Our organization was founded 22-years ago by the late Tom Cummings and a small group of other individuals who identified a need for statewide problem-gambling services. Tom served as a great example of how one individual's willingness to share his story can be extremely helpful to those affected by gambling problems.

The Council is a small organization with just eight staff members. We are proud of our accomplishments, yet we know that there is so much more we could do with your expertise and help.

Following are a few ways that you can represent the Council and help others to understand problem gambling:

- Disseminate problem gambling information at health fairs and community events.
- Present information and share your personal experience with school groups and community organizations.
- Encourage legislators to act responsibly in the development of public policy around gambling issues by sharing your story at the State House.
- Participate in media interviews.

The Council needs you. We understand the courage and humility that sharing your experience takes. If you wish to share your story while remaining anonymous, we will go to great lengths to ensure your privacy. **(Please see Frequently Asked Questions).*

Please fill out the attached form and return it to us by using the enclosed self-addressed envelope. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel comfortable calling me at (617) 426-4554. I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Marshall
Helpline and Volunteer Specialist
(617) 426-4554 / kyle@masscompulsivegambling.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling?

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is a private, non-profit organization committed to providing leadership in reducing the social, financial, and emotional costs of problem gambling and to promoting a continuum of prevention and intervention strategies including information and education, advocacy and referral services for problem gamblers, their families and the greater community.

Why is the Council creating a list of speakers?

We have discovered the immense power of personal experience in the twenty-two year history of the Council. Our founder, Tom Cummings, served as a great example of how one individual's willingness to share his story can be extremely helpful to those affected by gambling problems. Those who are privately suffering from the affects of a gambling problem can really see that they are not alone in their experiences, and that they can overcome their difficulties. People who are unaware of problem gambling also are given a real life example of the prevalence of the problem in a way that statistics cannot demonstrate.

What about anonymity?

We firmly believe that each person's anonymity is their own, and because of this we go to great lengths to ensure that your identity and name is only shared with other people if we have your written permission to do so. If an individual does not feel comfortable sharing their name, appearance, or voice, then the Council will do everything possible to ensure this information is not disclosed. The Council understands the courage that it takes to share such personal information.

I am not comfortable speaking in front of groups, can I still share my experiences through the Council?

Yes, absolutely! The Council receives many requests for newspaper, radio, and TV interviews that you can participate in over the phone or during an in-person interview. The Council will always do everything in our power to ensure that you are comfortable sharing your experience.

Is there a minimum amount of time that I have to be away from a bet?

Unlike Gamblers Anonymous, we do not have a specific restriction. However, we do believe that it is important that someone speaking about their experiences with gambling problems have knowledge of recovery.

Is there any other way that I can help?

Yes, there are a couple ways you can be helpful. You most likely know someone else who would be also be a good speaker. Please encourage them to help us carry the message to other people. Also, the Council is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in helping the Council as a volunteer please contact Kyle Marshall at 617-426-4554

If you have any more questions, please feel free to contact Kyle Marshall (617-426-4554 or kyle@masscompulsivegambling.org)

Spokesperson Questionnaire

Name: _____	
Preferred form of Contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Work Phone <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone <input type="checkbox"/> E-mail _____	
Home Phone:	Work Phone:
Cell Phone:	E-Mail:
Address:	
It is your anonymity, and so it is helpful for us to gain some knowledge of your willingness to share personal information with people outside of the office.	
___ I am comfortable using my name	___ I am comfortable having my photograph taken
___ I would like to use only my first name and last initial.	___ I am comfortable speaking on video (TV)
___ I would like to use a different name than my own.	___ I am comfortable speaking on video (TV) but only if my face is hidden.
___ It depends where/how it will be used.	___ I am comfortable speaking on video (TV) but only if my face is hidden and my voice is changed.

How are you willing to help? (please check all that apply)

- ___ Share my story with Council for use in educational materials (Council brochures, newsletters, website, etc.)
- ___ Help staff exhibit tables at conferences in local communities (e.g. Health fairs)
- ___ Share my story with media
- ___ Share my story at the State House
- ___ Talk with schools or other community organizations about problem gambling
- ___ Serve on a Council advisory committee
- ___ I would like to speak with someone from the Council before making any decisions.
- ___ Other – *Please describe* –

___ I am not able to help the Council at this time, but would be interested in the future.

___ I am not able to help the Council

Thank you for mailing this form back to the Council in provided the self-addressed, stamped envelope.