

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MARCH 8th – 14th “NATIONAL PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS WEEK”

Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling Offers Support

BOSTON, MA – Do you know someone who is preoccupied with gambling? Do they brag about their gambling – exaggerating wins and minimizing losses? Are they missing work? Are they borrowing money or doing something illegal to get money for gambling? If you answered yes to any of these questions – chances are, you know a someone with a gambling problem.

March 8 – 14 is National Problem Gambling Awareness Week. The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling is joining with communities nationwide to raise awareness about the problem and let people know that help is available.

The Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling recognizes that for most people, recreational gambling is not a problem. However, the Council also acknowledges that for others, approximately 6% of Massachusetts' general adult population, it is a serious problem with potentially devastating social, financial and emotional consequences. In fact, it can lead to divorce, abuse, bankruptcy and sometimes even suicide.

Treatment for people experiencing problems with gambling and their families is available and effective. Anyone who is concerned about their own or a loved one's gambling problem is encouraged to call the Council's toll-free Helpline at 1-800-426-1234. The Helpline, which is staffed by trained professionals, is confidential and available 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

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