



During the Holidays, Lottery Tickets and Gambling Not for Kids *Gambling Games Discouraged as Youth Stocking Stuffers*



(DECEMBER 5, 2018) The holiday season is welcomed as a time for bringing family and friends together for traditional meals, games and giving to others. While considering those special gifts, the national Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) wants to remind parents and other caring adults that lottery tickets and gambling games are not appropriate gifts for children under age 18.

Young people report that their first gambling experiences occur around ages 9-11. In fact, about 80 percent of high school teens admit that they have gambled for money in the past 12 months.

Based on studies of adults with gambling problems, the earlier a person begins gambling, the greater likelihood of developing a problem with gambling.

APGSA President Terri Sue Canale-Dalman explained, "For a small number of adults, gambling can be addictive and cause huge problems in life – very similar to addiction to alcohol or tobacco. As a parent, you wouldn't give your 10-year-old a six-pack of beer or a carton of cigarettes. We ask that you also refrain from giving lottery or scratch-off tickets and gambling-related games as gifts."

"The Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators have joined the National Council on Problem Gambling and dozens of organizations around the country in this effort to stop lottery tickets from ending up as youth gifts," added APGSA Executive Director Kathleen M. Scanlan.

If gambling is causing problems for someone you love, there is help. Individuals and families experiencing problem gambling issues can call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700, or chat at www.ncpgambling.org/chat. The Helpline is a confidential access point for those seeking assistance. For anyone in crisis, text "4HELP" to 741741. To learn more about APGSA, visit www.apgsa.org.

About the APGSA

The Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) is a national membership organization of state administrators of public funds for problem gambling services. The organization was formed in 2000 to support development of services to reduce the impact of problem gambling in the U.S. To learn more about APGSA and problem gambling services across the nation, visit www.apgsa.org.

Contacts

APGSA President Terri Sue Canale-Dalman, Chief, Office of Problem Gambling, California Department of Public Health (916) 324-3020 - terri.canale@cdph.ca.gov

APGSA Executive Director Kathleen M. Scanlan
(617) 548-8057 - kmscanlan@apgsa.org