

**GAMBLING DISORDER:
THE HIDDEN ADDICTION**

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**WHAT IS A
PROBLEM
GAMBLER?**

Someone with an irresistible urge to gamble despite harmful, negative consequences or a desire to stop.¹

¹<https://psymed.info/gambling-addiction-test>

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**CHARACTERISTICS OF A
PROBLEM GAMBLER**

- Loss of Control
- Preoccupation
- Irrational thinking
- Gambles despite harm

¹<https://www.problemgambling.ca>

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GAMBLING DISORDER CLOSELY RESEMBLES SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

PERSONS WITH GAMBLING DISORDER

- Gambling becomes the focal point of their lives.
- Needs to gamble with increasing amounts of money to achieve the desired excitement.
- Focus is on controlling the behavior.
- Presence of preoccupation, compromising social, occupational or recreational activities, and legal problems.
- Unsuccessful efforts to cut back or stop the addiction.

PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

- Lives are revolved around obtaining and consuming alcohol and drugs.
- Typically needs increased amounts of the substance to achieve the desired "high."
- Focus is on controlling the substance.
- Presence of preoccupation, compromising social, occupational or recreational activities, and legal problems.
- Unsuccessful efforts to cut back or stop the addiction.

IMPACT OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Problem gambling can have a profound impact on an individual's quality of life, level of functioning and interpersonal relationships. ¹

- Financial strain
- Depression
- Anxiety and stress
- Familial and marital conflict
- Loss of employment
- Legal difficulties
- Thoughts of suicide




¹Agart Hsu, Council Comm. On Behav. & Soc. Sciences & Educ., Comm. On The Soc. & Econ. Impact Of Pathological Gambling (2013); Comm. On Law & Justice, Pathological Gambling: A Critical Review (2019) (noting that "pathological gamblers engage in destructive behaviors: they commit crimes, they run up large debts, they damage relationships with family and friends, and they kill themselves");
²<https://www.problemgambling.ca/resources/first-aid-kit/about/problem-gambling.html>

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

Moral weakness

● Unlikely	● Likely
48%	52%

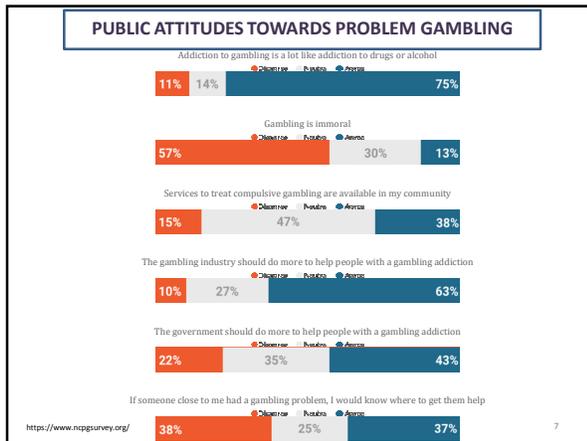
Having an addictive personality

● Unlikely	● Likely
15%	85%

Not having enough willpower

● Unlikely	● Likely
22%	78%

<https://www.ncpgsurvey.org/>



“Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders”

- Substance Use Disorders
- Alcohol-Related Disorders
- Caffeine-Related Disorders
- Cannabis-Related Disorders
- Hallucinogen-Related Disorders
- Inhalant-Related Disorders
- Opioid-Related Disorders
- Sedative, Hypnotic, and Anxiolytic-Related Disorders
- Stimulant-Related Disorders
- Tobacco-Related Disorders
- Non-Substance-Related Disorders (Gambling Disorder)

SCREENING FOR GAMBLING DISORDER

Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS) *A “yes” answer to any of the questions means the person is at risk for developing a gambling problem.*

- During the past 12 months, have you become restless, irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling? YES NO
- During the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled? YES NO
- During the past 12 months did you have such financial trouble as a result of your gambling that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends or welfare? YES NO

www.ncrg.org
www.divisiononaddiction.org

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS

Adult disordered gamblers are:

- Five times more likely to have co-occurring alcohol dependence.
- Four times more likely to abuse drugs.
- Three times more likely to be depressed.¹

Adolescents with gambling problems are twice as likely to binge drink and use illegal drugs.²



¹ Petry, N. Disordered Gambling and Its Treatment. Report to the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (2008).
² <https://www.addictions.com/blog/9/warning-signs-of-a-gambling-addiction/>

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41.3% of individuals with a gambling disorder also suffer from an anxiety disorder

- Generalized Anxiety
- Panic Disorder
- Social Phobia
- Post-Traumatic Stress



(www.samsha.gov)

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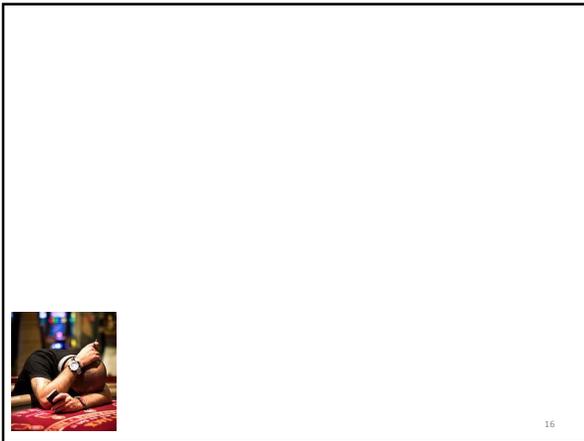
ECONOMIC COST OF PROBLEM GAMBLING

- ❑ As many as 23 million Americans go into debt because of gambling.¹
- ❑ U.S. consumers experience over \$100 billion per year in total gambling losses.²
- ❑ The average debt generated by a man addicted to gambling is between \$55,000 and \$90,000. Women gamblers average \$15,000 of debt.³
- ❑ More than 20% of compulsive gamblers end up filing for bankruptcy because of gambling losses.⁴



¹ <https://www.debt.org/advice/gambling/>
² <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2017/02/09/the-worlds-biggest-problems>
³ <https://www.gamblers.casino/gambling-and-debt/>
⁴ <https://www.debt.org/advice/gambling/>

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Problem Gambling and Divorce

In family court cases, problem gambling issues may arise in connection with

- Property Division
- Child Custody and Neglect
- Domestic Violence

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Research indicates that from one-half to two-thirds of disordered gamblers have committed an illegal act to get money to gamble.

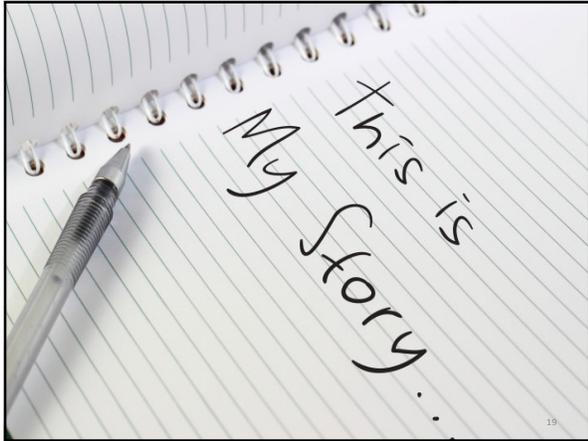
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19812082/>

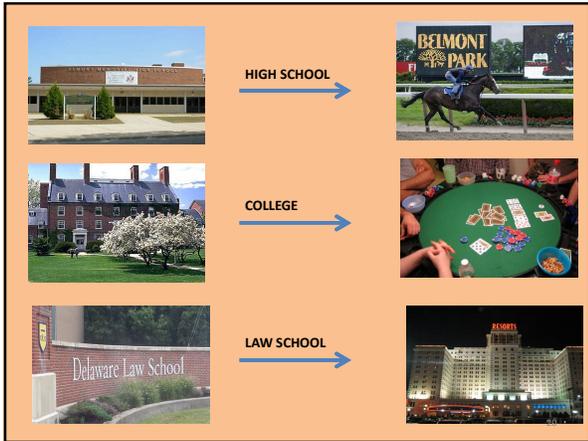
A majority of criminal offenses committed by problem gamblers are non-violent and are motivated by gambling.

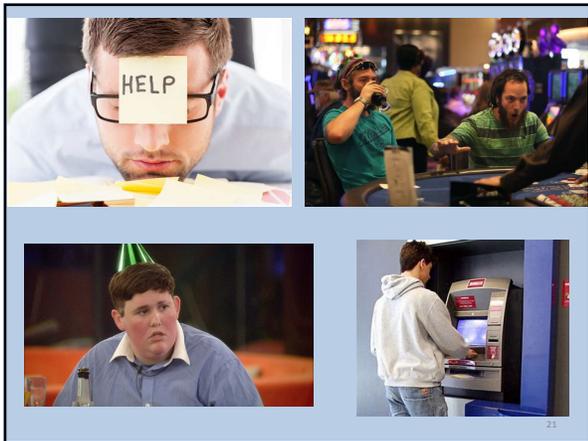
Stinchell, J., Gambling and offending: An examination of the literature, Georgia State University, January 2008.

33% of prisoners report gambling while incarcerated even though prisons and jails in the United States routinely prohibit gambling.

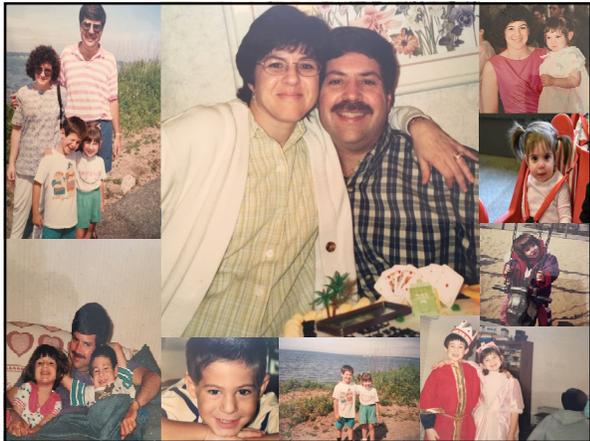
https://www.compsoc.org/gambling-and-prisons/uploads/2013/05/ncmj_schuchert-report08-2013.pdf

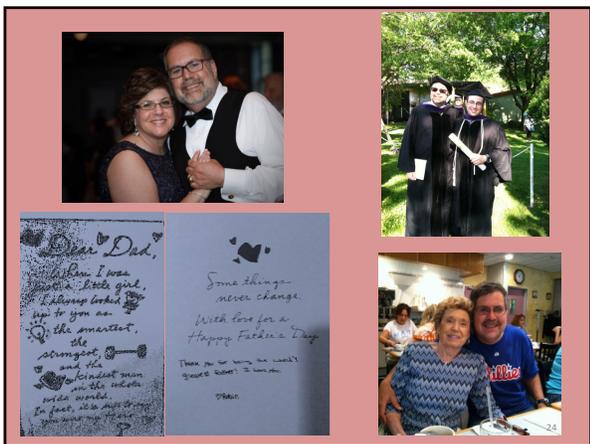














BLACKJACK
Players required to communicate
Players socialize with other players
Considered "skill" gambling
Outcome impacted by other players' decisions
Outcome delayed by other players, dealer, shuffling

SLOT MACHINES
Players do not communicate
Players feel isolated
Little or no "skill" gambling
Outcome is random and machine driven
Outcome determined when player initiates spin

THE FACE OF DESPARATION





IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

THE MASTER OF A MEMBER OF THE BAR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE §
 No. 443, 2015 §
 COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE §
 §
 §
 JEFFREY P. WASSERMAN, §
 Petitioner. §

Submitted: August 18, 2015
 Decided: August 19, 2015

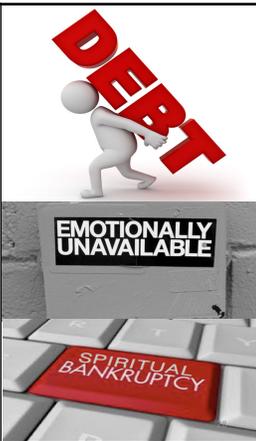
before STRINE, Chief Justice; HOLLAND, and SEITZ, Justices.

ORDER

This 19th day of August 2015, upon receipt of sufficient evidence demonstrating that Jeffrey P. Wasserman, Esquire ("the Petitioner") is suffering from physical or mental health problems that adversely affect his ability to practice law, and without opposition from the Office of Disciplinary Counsel ("the ODC"), it is HEREBY ORDERED that:

- (1) The Petitioner, for good cause shown, is hereby immediately transferred to disability inactive status under Rule 19 of the Delaware Lawyers' Rules of Disciplinary Procedure.
- (2) The Petitioner shall not practice law in this State or in any other jurisdiction.
- (3) The Petitioner represents to the Court that Edward Cicotte, Esquire, a member in good standing of the Delaware Bar, is willing and available to assume all of the Petitioner's client matters; thus, no receiver need be appointed.
- (4) Any disciplinary proceedings currently under investigation by the ODC are deferred pending further order of this Court.
- (5) This Order shall be made public.

BY THE COURT:
 /s/ Leo F. Strine, Jr.
 Chief Justice



WHAT'S THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LAWYERS AND GAMBLING?

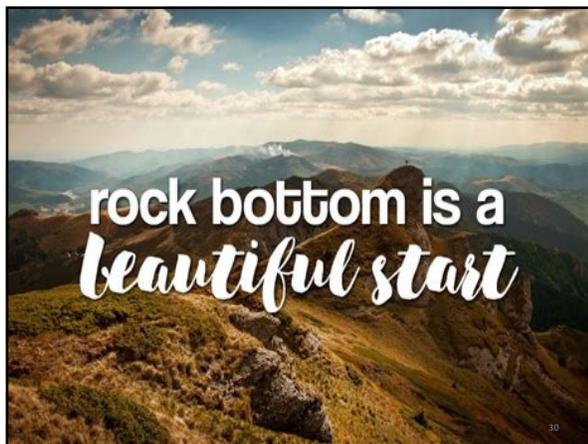


STRESS

OPPORTUNITY

ACCESSIBILITY

Trust Accounts











**DELAWARE COUNCIL
ON GAMBLING
PROBLEMS**

24/7 CONFIDENTIAL
HELPLINE
888-850-8888
OR TEXT 302-438-8888

The Delaware Council on Gambling Problems (DCGP) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) health agency founded in 1979 to provide programs and services for problem gamblers and their families. DCGP is gambling neutral.



SOMETIMES
PEOPLE WITH
THE WORST
PASTS END UP
CREATING THE
BEST FUTURES
