



# Problem Gambling COALITION OF COLORADO

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Colorado Problem Gambling Helpline (800) 522-4700

## **Problem Gambling Awareness Week Campaign Kicks Off**

### *Colorado Gambling Helpline Provides Support Statewide*

**DENVER, March 6, 2011** – The Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado (PGCC) is joining forces with the National Council on Problem Gambling to kick off National Problem Gambling Awareness Week, March 6-12. This week the PGCC is urging Coloradans to help spread the word about gambling addiction, an issue that impacts an estimated six to nine million Americans every year.

Last year 330 Coloradans sought assistance with gambling addictions by reaching out to the Colorado Problem Gambling Helpline. The Helpline provides guidance and resources seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Staffed by trained mental health professionals, the Helpline can present a variety of possible solutions – from suggesting treatment centers to offering information on Gamblers Anonymous meetings. Informing the public about the Helpline is a key part of the PGCC's outreach campaign.

To help identify problem gamblers, the PGCC has provided 10 questions about gambling behavior.

- Have you often gambled longer than you had planned?
- Have you often gambled until your last dollar was gone?
- Have thoughts of gambling caused you to lose sleep?
- Have you used your income or savings to gamble while letting bills go unpaid?
- Have you made repeated, unsuccessful attempts to stop gambling?
- Have you broken the law or considered breaking the law to finance your gambling?
- Have you borrowed money to finance your gambling?

- Have you felt depressed or suicidal because of your gambling losses?
- Have you been remorseful after gambling?
- Have you gambled to get money to meet your financial obligations?

If you or someone you know answers “yes” to any of these questions, the PGCC encourages you to call the Colorado Problem Gambling Helpline at 800-522-4700.

For additional information and resources about problem gambling, visit <http://www.npgaw.org>.

The mission of the Problem Gambling Coalition of Colorado is to increase awareness, advocate treatment and promote research and education on problem gambling. Members include organizations such as the Colorado Lottery, the Colorado Division of Gaming, the Colorado Gaming Association, the Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation (CeDAR) at the Anschutz Centers for Advanced Medicine, University of Denver and other industry and treatment professionals.

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