

REMOTE GAMBLING

Gambling at your Fingertips - Everywhere

Remote gambling is any form of gambling in which a person does not need to be physically present. It can be conducted from the safety of a gambler's own home, car, airplane, street corner, café, school room, board room, or any place a remote device is operable.

What makes Remote Gambling a growing concern?

- It is immediate – accessed from anywhere, anytime
- It is a solitary endeavor
- It is even more hidden than other forms of gambling
- Others know that it is a problem only after their lives have been painfully effected

Remote gambling includes:

- Internet sites which includes any form of betting imaginable
- Mobile devices for text messaging and internet/web access
- Cell phone, telephone
- Interactive TV

Facts on Remote Gambling

- Internet has over 2,500 gambling sites and the number is growing daily
- Online poker has over 400 websites and is growing daily
- Presently there are over 5 million transactions conducted per day, or an average of about 300 bets per second
- There is no US regulation on how the sites control payouts and percentages of payoffs. The sites could manipulate the gambler to think they are skilled and can outplay the others on the site. Once winning and playing with greater amounts of money the site could decrease the gamblers odds and take the winnings back with interest

Attractive to persons who:

- Want immediate access
- Are socially shy and lack confidence
- Prefer privacy
- Are uncomfortable with physical nearness to others
- Disabled and do not want to be seen as different
- Want to decrease social barriers based on sex, race, age, disability
- Want to be someone they are not

Remote Gambling makes the gambler feel:

- Disinhibited – people do and say things in cyberspace that they wouldn't ordinarily say in the real world.
- Interactive with others without face to face contact
- As if they can escape and get away from the real world
- Intelligent, skilled, and all powerful until they start losing

Thoughts of the Remote Gambler

- You don't know me – anonymity
- You can't see me – invisibility
- See you later – don't relate in real time, wait for messages
- It's just a game – real money does not change hands – it's all credits
- We're equals – authority really does not exist

What Remote Gambling Provides

- **Gratification:** No waiting, instant
- **Anticipation:** Removed, instant action, adrenaline rush
- **Companion:** Always there when needed
- **Fantasy:** Takes you to it, change persona, gender bender
- **Expression:** In a private world, more satisfying than real life
- **Ego:** Boosts fragile/bruised ego
- **Constraints:** Lacking boundaries. Limit only by extent cash/credit
- **Chasing:** Several times a day. PC is a beckoning finger. (Bellringer, 2006)
- **A Chance:** to lose financial resources, friends, jobs, family, freedom, etc.

Remote gambling does not include face-to-face encounters.
It is solitary and unmonitored

Awareness of this problem needs to be a family matter – the people most likely to discover the gambling problem are family, friends and those closest to the gambler.

What to do if you think you or someone you know has a problem with Remote Gambling

**Call the National Council on Problem Gambling Hotline at
1-800-522-4700.**