

# WEB LETTER



FLORIDA COUNCIL ON  
COMPULSIVE  
GAMBLING

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## NATIONAL LOTTERY WEEK PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN MYTHS AND FACTS



888-ADMIT-IT  
321-978-0555  
GAMBLINGHELP.ORG

The week of July 11th is National Lottery Week and a time to acknowledge that while lottery games are a form of entertainment for the overwhelming majority of Floridians who play, they can create serious difficulties for a segment of the population – problem gamblers. There are many misconceptions people have about lottery games, so National Lottery Week is a perfect opportunity to distinguish myths from facts.

Myths	Facts
State lotteries are not a form of gambling.	State lotteries offer gambling games of chance, so when a person purchases a lottery ticket, while they may hope to win, they risk losing.
Lottery players are not considered gamblers.	Persons playing lottery games are no different from those who place wagers on other forms of gambling. When individuals buy lottery tickets, they are risking their money on games with uncertain outcomes, which is the definition of gambling.
People cannot become addicted to lottery games.	A percentage of all lottery players experience difficulties due to gambling on these games. The problems that they and their families experience are no different than other problem gamblers. It is also true that some forms of lottery games are more addictive than others (i.e., involve rapid cycles of play).

Do you or someone you know:

- Frequently stop at the convenience store, gas station, or elsewhere to purchase scratch-off tickets or other lottery games?
- Spend more money than can afford to lose?
- Use money earmarked for other purposes?
- Upon winning, reinvest winnings, or spend more than planned on purchases?
- Lie to others about how much money or time is spent playing lottery games?
- Experience feelings of anger, frustration, or anxiety if cannot play the lottery or upon losing?
- Often think about buying lottery tickets, planning the next outing, or fantasizing about how lottery winnings will be spent?
- Borrow or steal from others to secure the funds needed to keep playing lottery games?

If you responded yes to one or more of the above indicators, gambling may be a problem. The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling's 24/7, Confidential, and Multilingual HelpLine may be reached by calling **888-ADMIT-IT** (888-236-4848), texting (321) 978-0555, emailing [fccg@gamblinghelp.org](mailto:fccg@gamblinghelp.org), initiating a live chat at [gamblinghelp.org](http://gamblinghelp.org), or by reaching out on social media platforms, such as [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fccg) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/fccg). The HelpLine offers help and hope for anyone suffering from the effects of a gambling problem.

**GET CONNECTED TO THE RESOURCES THAT MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE AND KNOW THAT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE!**