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Contact the 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine for no-cost, judgement-free support available through phone, live chat, email, mobile app, and social media.

<https://gamblinghelp.org/#contact-the-helpline>



Gift Responsibly Campaign: Information Sheet for Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

This holiday season, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG), in conjunction with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University, launches the 2023 Gift Responsibly Campaign. This initiative is part of the National Safe Toys and Gift Awareness Month and aims to educate about the dangers of gifting lottery tickets to youth.

The Gift Responsibly Campaign strongly urges parents, family members, and caregivers to leave lottery tickets off children's gift lists, and helps to raise awareness of the dangers of youth gambling.

To help understand the risks of gifting lottery products to children, consider these alarming statistics that speak to the inherent dangers and consequences associated with youth gambling. Despite the legal gambling age of 18, Florida prevalence research revealed 18.5% of adolescents ages 13-17 reported purchasing lottery tickets in their lifetime and 12.5% within the past year.

In addition, the study found [1]:

- Lifetime participation in gambling was almost 70% among Florida residents, ages 13 to 17.
- Over 40% reported gambling in the past year and 11.5% identified as weekly gamblers.
- Adolescent problem gamblers also had much higher rates of alcohol, drug, and tobacco use.

Nationally, according to the NCPG [2]:

- Ten to 14 percent of adolescents are at-risk for developing a problem with gambling.
- While male adolescents gamble more frequently than females, female adolescents are more actively involved in lottery play.
- Four to six percent of adolescents presently have a serious problem with gambling.

It is our role as caregivers to have open conversations and talk about the risks of gambling and most importantly, choose age-appropriate, non-gambling-related gifts for children. Call or text the 24/7, Confidential, and Multilingual 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine for problem gambling help, hope, and information. Learn more and access live chat on our website at gamblinghelp.org.

References:

1. Shapira, N. A., Ferguson, M. A., Frost-Pineda, K., & Gold, M. S. (2002). Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevalence among Adolescents in Florida.
2. "GIFT RESPONSIBLY CAMPAIGN FAQ'S." National Council on Problem Gambling, 13 Oct. 2022.