



Gambling on Santa's Surprises?

Lottery Tickets Are Not Suitable Gifts for Youth under 18.

(DECEMBER 7, 2016) Every year thousands of children receive lottery tickets and scratch-offs in holiday stockings and as gifts from relatives. The Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) wants to spread the word that lottery and other gambling products are NOT for children under age 18.

APGSA President Lori Rugle, PhD, explained, "Research tells us that the sooner a child begins to gamble, the more likely he or she is to develop problem gambling issues in later life. Plus, we know that an estimated 50 percent of people with gambling problems have had a big win early in their lives. Bottom line is – lottery tickets shouldn't be given to kids." Dr. Rugle is program director of the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Is gambling hurting your family? For families with a loved one who is experiencing problem gambling, call or text the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-522-4700, or chat at www.ncpgambling.org/chat. The Helpline is a confidential access point for those seeking assistance. To learn more about APGSA, visit www.apgsa.org.

About the APGSA

The Association of Problem Gambling Service Administrators (APGSA) is a national membership organization of state administrators of public funds for problem gambling services. The organization was formed in 2000 to support the development of services that will reduce the impact of problem gambling in the United States. To learn more about APGSA and problem gambling services across the nation, visit www.apgsa.org.

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