

Gambling at Your Fingertips - Everywhere

Remote gambling is any form of gambling in which a person participates by the use of remote communication and players do not need to be face to face. It can be conducted from the safety of a gambler's own home, car, airplane, street corner, cafe, school room, board room, or any place a remote communication 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 affected

Remote Gambling includes:

- Internet sites
- Mobile devices for text messaging and internet/web access
- Cell phone, telephone
- Interactive TV

Facts on Remote Gambling:

- In 2005, it was estimated that the internet had over 2,500 gambling sites and that number continues to grow
- Online poker has over 400 websites and is growing
- It is estimated that there are over 5 million online transactions conducted per day, or an average of about 300 bets per second
- There is no U.S. 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. If the gambler wins and plays with greater amounts of money, the site could decrease the gambler's odds.

Remote Gambling is attractive to persons who:

- Want immediate access
- Are socially shy and lack confidence
- Prefer privacy
- Are uncomfortable with physical nearness to others
- Are 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:

- Uninhibited – 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 gambling, instant action, adrenaline rush
- **Companion:** Always there when needed
- **Fantasy:** Takes you to it, change persona
- **Expression:** In a private world, more satisfying than real life
- **Ego:** Boosts for fragile/bruised ego
- **Freedom:** Lacking boundaries and constraints. Limited only by extent cash/credit
- **Chasing:** Access to chase losses is as close as the nearest computer
- **A Chance:** 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. Problem gambling help is confidential and it works. Call:



Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling

Helpline: 800-522-4700

www.mdproblemgambling.com

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