



ARIZONA OFFICE OF
**PROBLEM
GAMBLING**

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Governor Janice Brewer Proclaims March 1-7 Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week

Arizona Office of Problem Gambling To Host Symposium

PHOENIX – (Feb. 26, 2009) – Governor Janice Brewer has declared March 1-7 Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Week, the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling announced today.

To mark National Problem Gambling Awareness Week in Arizona, the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling will host a day-long symposium in Phoenix on Monday, March 2, to focus on personal and community issues associated with problem gambling.

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is dedicated to educating the general public and behavioral therapists about the effects of problem gambling. The organizers of National Problem Gambling Awareness Week have created a YouTube video sharing channel for problem gamblers and their loved ones.

The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling symposium will feature keynote speaker Dr. Jon E. Grant, co-director of the Impulse Control Disorders Clinic at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis. Grant, an associate professor of psychiatry at the University, is a nationally recognized expert on problem gambling. He is the author of several books on behavioral addictions, and is editor in chief of the Journal of Gambling Studies. Grant will speak on “Problem Gambling and the Brain: Advances in Pharmacological Treatment.”

“Problem gambling is ever-evolving; therefore, it’s imperative that we understand the issue itself as well as other disorders that may lead to or be influenced by



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problem gambling,” said Rick Pyper, director of the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling. “

Other speakers will present information on a variety of problem gambling issues. A panel of individuals in recovery will share their experiences from their road to recovery.

The “Pathways to Recovery” symposium is presented by the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling with generous support from co-sponsors The Arizona Lottery, Salt River Casino Arizona and Harrahs Ak-Chin Casino. The event will be held March 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Black Canyon Conference Center, located at 9440 N. 25th Avenue in Phoenix. The event is open to the public and is especially recommended for professionals and students working in or studying the helping professions. Reservations can be made by calling (480) 990-1887. All participants will receive a certificate of completion for six hours of continuing education credits. The fee is \$75 and includes lunch.

National Problem Gambling Awareness Week is sponsored by the National Council on Problem Gambling. The National Council on Problem Gambling has developed a special non-profit National Problem Gambling Awareness Week channel on YouTube, the popular video sharing site. The YouTube channel is www.youtube.com/npgaw2009.

“Online social networking sites provide a cost effective and confidential forum for individuals to interact with peers and experts without having to leave their home or office,” said Linda Abonyo, Program Manager at the National Council on Problem Gambling. “More and more people are finding it easier to communicate through email, online forums, and text messaging so it makes sense that we should consider reaching out to our constituents through these outlets.”

About the Arizona Office of Problem Gambling:

The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) seeks to support a sustainable continuum of services that reduces the impact of problem gambling in Arizona by providing effective prevention, treatment, and education programs throughout Arizona. The OPG is committed to a public health approach to addressing problem gambling issues, taking into consideration the biological, behavioral, economic, cultural, policy, and environmental factors influencing gambling and health. The Arizona Office of Problem Gambling maintains a 24 hour problem gambling help line --1-800-NEXT STEP (1-800-639-8783). Visit www.problemgambling.az.gov.

**Do you know someone who may have a gambling problem?
Here are some of the warning signs of problem gambling:**



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- Betting more and more money over time
- Spending more time gambling than planned
- Lying to people about gambling
- Using gambling to escape problems
- Borrowing to replace lost money
- Using credit to gamble
- Gambling to get lost money back
- Unsuccessfully trying to cut back or quit
- Gambling alone
- Losing interest in other activities

Help for problem gambling.

1.800.NEXTSTEP
(1.800.639.8738)

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