

Problem Gambling and Crime In the Workplace

- *Information*
- *Resources*
- *Training*
- *Consultation*

As gambling opportunities in Connecticut increase, **problem gambling** also increases as well as the numbers of those who are affected by problem gambling, including family, friends, co-workers and the employers of problem gamblers. It is highly likely that problem gambling, at some point in time, will directly or indirectly **affect your workplace**.

According to CCPG’s Problem Gambling Helpline statistics (2004), the following illegal acts were committed by problem gamblers as a result of their gambling:

- 11% committed fraud**
- 7% embezzled money**
- 2% committed robbery**
- 3% committed other illegal acts**

Other illegal acts include forgery, tax violations, and illegal gambling operations.

Examples of problem gambling-related crimes reported in the CT press:

Stonington: A finance department **accountant** stole \$257,000 in town funds to fuel her gambling (*The Day*, 1/25/05).

Enfield: A **police dispatcher** was charged with embezzlement and gambling away \$68,000 from the Athletic Booster Association of which he was treasurer (*The Hartford Courant*, 5/12/04).

Vernon: The **payroll clerk** at the Board of Education was convicted of embezzling \$153,000, which was lost at the two Connecticut casinos (*Associated Press*, 8/05/04).

New Haven: A **businessman’s** addiction to gambling cost him a small business empire, personal bankruptcy, a trusted partnership and close relationships with family and friends. (*New Haven Register*, 10/28/03).

“...Many... gambling-related cases are never reported to the police.”
(*The Hartford Courant*, 8/23/00).

CT Employers, EAP and HR managers:

Problem gambling **will** affect an employee’s financial, physical and mental health, and **overall work productivity**. It will also affect **your bottom line**. Contact CCPG for consultation or training on problem gambling in your workplace. Learn how to **identify** an employee with a potential **gambling problem**. At the same time, protect other employees and your business. If an employee has a problem, **there is help**.



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