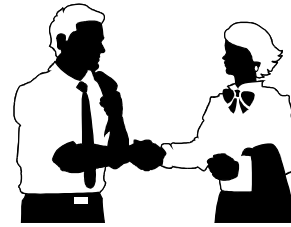


## Employer Expectations for Youth

### *Problem Gambling Prevention*



Are the choices you're making now supporting your future goals and dreams? Opportunities to gamble are abundant in Oregon, as gambling has become part of the Oregon landscape, culture, and economy. With the increase in opportunity, Oregon has started to see more youth developing a problem with gambling, and employers want you to understand how negative effects of problem gambling can affect future employability.

According to the 2010 Problem Gambling Community Resource Guide released by the Oregon Department of Human Services:

- There are already up to 5,740 adolescents in Oregon with severe gambling related difficulties
- Youth who gamble are more likely to have used alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs in the past year according to the Oregon's annual survey of teen health.
- Youth develop gambling problems faster than adults and the earlier one starts, the more likely they are to develop a problem.

Unpaid debt is only one of many social, economic and psychological implications associated with problem gambling.

- \$32,000 is the average gambling debt reported by clients seeking treatment
- 54% reported they either jeopardized or lost a significant relationship or job because of gambling
- 48% indicated suicidal thoughts
- 38% had committed illegal acts to obtain gambling money
- 34% of the clients had alcohol related problems
- 15% has substance abuse problems



Aside from the connection between problem gambling and other risky behaviors, the debt created by problem gambling can put negative marks on your financial history, which will follow you into adulthood. Did you know an unfavorable credit history could have a negative effect on whether or not you get the job you are applying for? Credit checks of job applicants are generally allowed for pre-employment screening though the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Local employers are looking for employees who demonstrate essential skills and attributes such as appropriate work ethic & behaviors in school, community, and workplace as laid out in Oregon's Career Related Learning Standards. A few things to remember are:

- More and more, employers are incorporating the topic of gambling into relevant policies on Internet use, phone use, and disallowed activities during work hours.
- According to the Society for Human Resource Management, 35% of employers conduct credit history checks on potential employees due to rising rates of employee theft and embezzlement. Youth who have developed a gambling problem may negatively affect their credit history.

- Many forms of gambling are illegal in Oregon for those under 18 and 21.
- Gambling is NOT a risk free activity...consequences include lost money, depression, social withdrawal and dropping out of school.

If you or someone you know has a problem with gambling, Oregon is the leader in available free, confidential treatment. Professionally trained counselors are available in English or Spanish 24/7 at 1-866-MY LIMIT or [www.1877mylimit.org](http://www.1877mylimit.org) to provide information, referral to treatment or to Gamblers Anonymous meetings in the area.



Additional resources for prevention and treatment of problem gambling can be found on the Marion County Health Department website at [www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PS/](http://www.co.marion.or.us/HLT/PS/).

For more information, contact:

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