

PROBLEM GAMBLING, A Guide for Financial Planners

FIVE QUESTIONS to Consider

Do you suspect that one of your clients has a gambling problem? If so, it may be more than just a money management issue. Problem gambling is a disorder with devastating financial, social and emotional consequences. As a financial planner, you can help.

The five questions on the reverse side of this card can alert financial planners to gambling problems in clients. Please note, these activities in and of themselves do not necessarily indicate gambling problems and may be related to other financial issues or other addictions. However, answering “yes” to one or more of these questions is suggestive of some problem deserving further assessment.

The following questions were developed by Lauren Gadowski, CFP, Compass Planning Associates, Boston. They are based upon her own experiences working with clients who have personally experienced a problem with gambling, either in their lives or in the lives of people close to them.



Massachusetts Council on

Compulsive Gambling

We understand the problem. We can help.

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1. Is your client secretive about money and money issues?

2. Does your client have a shortage of cash, despite making an adequate income?

3. Is your client borrowing heavily from his or her family members and friends?

4. Is your client dipping into home equity, investments and retirement accounts to get cash?

5. Is your client expressing that they are spending a lot of time and/or money gambling?

For more information about problem gambling resources, please call the confidential Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling Helpline at 1-800-426-1234, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We understand the problem. We can help.



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190 High Street, Suite 5
Boston, MA 02110-3031

www.masscompulsivegambling.org

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