

Problem Gambling

MGC staff continues reaching out to the public to elevate general awareness of problem gambling, the resources available for those who are negatively impacted by a personal or a loved one's gambling problem, and the guidelines for gambling responsibly. Problem gambling is not an issue that can be attacked on any one front. It requires the attention, cooperation and resources of many public and private organizations. Only through a cooperative effort with other public agencies and providers of education and treatment services can this goal be efficiently and effectively achieved.

As a governing member of both the Missouri Alliance to Curb Problem Gambling (the "Alliance"), and the Midwest Consortium on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse ("MCPGSA"), MGC continues to promote collaboration among groups and organizations to expand the recognition of problem gambling as a public health issue, and to enhance Missouri's comprehensive approach to problem gambling outreach, prevention, and treatment. Due to the strength and efficacy of these collaborations, Missouri was again selected to host the fifth annual Midwest Conference on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse, which was held August 13-15, 2008 in St. Louis. MGC serves on the executive committee and is integral in the facilitation of this extremely successful and unique conference.

The Alliance is a pivotal component in Missouri's innovative and comprehensive program to address the public health implications of gambling and problem gambling. Indeed, other states and countries have emulated various components of Missouri's broad-based approach to problem gambling prevention, outreach, harm minimization, and treatment, and have often expressed surprise at how much Missouri has accomplished with its limited budget.

Also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (the "List"), MGC's unique voluntary exclusion program provides problem and compulsive gamblers with a means to acknowledge that they have a problem and to take personal responsibility for it. More than 13,110 individuals were on the List at the close of Fiscal Year 2008.

List of Excluded Persons

We are continuing our efforts to revive and expand the use of the "Exclusion List." The Commission's power to exclude persons from our Casinos emanates from the Missouri Gaming Statute and, more specifically, the State Regulations. Under these provisions the Commission has the power and duty to exclude persons who have committed crimes of moral turpitude or gambling related crimes, as well as persons of unsavory reputation or persons on a valid and current exclusion list from another jurisdiction in the United States.

During this past year we've added twenty-one names to Missouri's Exclusion List. Most of the names, seventeen, were added when we adopted the Exclusion List of Illinois, our neighboring state. The others were added due to felony convictions for cheating and other stealing related crimes.

In addition to updating this long neglected list, we also launched our Exclusion List website, which can be accessed directly from the Commission's home page. Each person on the Exclusion List has his or her own page, which contains identifying information and a photograph. We have also proposed new requirements for casinos that will strengthen our enforcement efforts and further ensure that excluded persons are prevented from gambling in the state of Missouri.