



Teen Gambling: It's a **Bad Bet!**

The earlier in life a person starts gambling the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem. If unchecked, problem gambling can lead to loss of large sums of money, damaged personal relationships, crime, substance abuse, depression, and even suicide.

Is someone you know ... ?

- ◆ Preoccupied with gambling (reliving past gambling experiences, planning the next venture, or thinking of ways to get money in order to gamble)
- ◆ Secretive about his/her gambling habits and defensive when confronted
- ◆ Increasing bet amounts when gambling to achieve the desired excitement
- ◆ Trying unsuccessfully to control, cut back, or stop gambling
- ◆ Restless or irritable when not gambling
- ◆ Gambling to escape problems
- ◆ "Chasing" losses with more gambling
- ◆ Lying to family and others about the extent of gambling
- ◆ Committing crimes to finance gambling
- ◆ Jeopardizing or losing relationships, jobs, educational or career opportunities because of gambling
- ◆ Relying on others to bail him or her out of desperate financial situations because of gambling



If any of these statements sound like someone you know, that person could have a gambling problem.

**Talk to a counselor or call 1-877-8-HOPENY for confidential help.
Early intervention is extremely important.
Don't wait for the problem to get worse!**



**Prevention
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