

News Release

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Media Contact | Dayne O'Brien
602.921.0232 | dobrien@azgaming.gov

ADG PSA: Consumer Protection Alert – Rise in Fraudulent Online Casinos Targeting Arizonans

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Gaming (“ADG”) is issuing this Consumer Protection Alert to inform Arizonans of a concerning nationwide trend that has now reached Arizona. Fraudulent operators are falsely claiming that legitimate Arizona casinos have launched online gaming platforms. These illegal online casino platforms are presenting themselves as legitimate platforms by offering illegitimate or illegal gaming services. Online casinos (often referred to as “igaming”) are not legal in Arizona. Any claims otherwise should be treated as highly suspicious. These scams not only put players at financial risk but also undermine the integrity of Arizona’s regulated gaming industry.

ADG has received multiple reports of fraudulent online casinos targeting Arizonans, as well as complaints from patrons who have been misled. These scams are being widely disseminated through social media advertisements directing consumers to download apps and visit websites, and are enticing unsuspecting consumers to spend money on illegitimate games.

The Arizona Department of Gaming urges residents to verify the legitimacy of any online gaming platform before engaging in play. Many of these operations are not legal or regulated, leaving users vulnerable to fraud, identity theft, and other serious risks. Due to their unregulated nature, ADG is unable to resolve complaints and disputes arising from unregulated and illegal gaming sites, leaving victims with little to no chance of recovering lost funds. It is important to remember that just because you can download the app, visit the website, and play the games, it does not mean it is a legitimate and legal gaming platform.

In light of these developments, the Department encourages both Arizona residents and visitors to visit our website to find a list of all regulated casinos and licensed event wagering and fantasy sports operators legally taking bets in Arizona. The list can be found on the Department’s website at gaming.az.gov. Legal, regulated operations provide important consumer protections not found in the illegal market, helping ensure a safer experience for participants.

In case you missed it, in late January, the Department released a public service announcement highlighting tips for safe and responsible online gaming. View the press release here: [Media Room](#).

The Dangers of Illegal Online Casinos:

Fraudulent online casinos often mimic reputable platforms, using familiar branding, flashy advertisements, and enticing promotions to lure victims. These unregulated operations leave participants vulnerable to:

- Financial loss through fake gaming platforms or fraudulent prize fees.
- Identity theft resulting from shared personal or financial information.

Common Red Flags of Illegal Platforms:

These deceptive platforms often use tactics such as:

- **Mimicking branding** of legitimate Arizona casinos, including similar or actual logos and names.
- **Enticing promotions** that appear too good to be true, such as excessive bonuses or guaranteed wins, luring players into providing sensitive information.
- **Incorrect Website URL/Mobile App** – Fraudulent sites often use web addresses that closely mimic legitimate casino names but have slight misspellings or different domain extensions (e.g., .net instead of .com).

How to Protect Yourself:

- Check before you bet: verify the licensed and regulated casinos and operators in Arizona.
- Be skeptical of advertisements or promotions on social media promising guaranteed wins or no-risk gaming.
- Avoid sharing personal or financial information with unverified sources.
- Look for sites that include resources for dispute resolution, as well as self-exclusion, responsible gaming messaging, or a toll-free helpline number.

Reporting Suspicious Activity, Fraud, or Identity Theft:

If you encounter fraud, identity theft, or suspicious online gaming operations, apps, or websites impersonating a casino or claiming to be a licensed operator in Arizona, please take the following steps:

1. **Document the website URL, app, business name, and any promotional materials** associated with the fraudulent operator.
2. **Report it** to ADG at publicaffairs@azgaming.gov and the Arizona Attorney General's Office Consumer Information and Complaints Unit at **(602) 542-5763** or by visiting azag.gov/consumer.
3. **Cease activity on the platform** and monitor financial accounts for unauthorized transactions.

If you suspect identity theft, report it to the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC"): for help in English, go to IdentityTheft.gov and for help in Spanish, go to RobodeIdentidad.gov.

ADG takes complaints about all illegal gambling seriously. To report suspected illegal gambling activity of any type, visit our website at gaming.az.gov/about/contact-us, call (602) 255-3886, or email publicaffairs@azgaming.gov. You can remain anonymous.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal](#)

[gaming, event wagering & fantasy sports contests, racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention, and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT STEP.

The Department and our Division of Problem Gambling would greatly appreciate our media partners including supportive resources when reporting on gambling, or event wagering, fantasy sports, sports betting, or other wagering-related activities:

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, you can get help now by calling 1-800-NEXT-STEP (1.800.639.8783), DPG’s confidential helpline, texting “NEXTSTEP” to 53342, or utilizing a chat feature on the DPG website. DPG’s helpline confidentiality connects callers with available resources, including statewide treatment providers who specialize in problem gambling. The helpline is available 24/7 to everyone facing a problem with gambling – individuals and affected family members, friends, or co-workers. Learn more and access resources at problemgambling.az.gov.

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