



## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Arizona Department of Gaming Raises Awareness of Resources to Combat Problem Gambling**

PHOENIX – Arizonans suffering from problem gambling have a wide range of resources that can help.

That’s the message from the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) for Problem Gambling Awareness Month, which begins today.

The department’s Division of Gaming (DPG), in collaboration with the National Council of Problem Gambling (NCPG), is participating in the 2022 campaign, “Awareness + Action”, to help foster a stronger understanding of problem gambling and the ways to prevent and combat it.

“Arizona Problem Gambling Awareness Month aims to spread the word and highlight the resources available to those who suffer from problem gambling,” said Ted Vogt, Director, ADG. “The good news is that help is available. DPG has resources widely available to Arizonans to help those who may be impacted by problem gambling to take the next step.”

The hashtag for the campaign this year is #PGAM2022, which participants are encouraged to use on their social media platforms. Problem Gambling Awareness Month brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including public health organizations, treatment providers, advocacy groups and gambling operators. By working together, we can let those who may have a gambling problem know that hope and help exist.

“Through the leadership of Director of DPG, Elise Mikkelsen, we lead the way for effective treatment for problem gambling in the state of Arizona,” said Ted Vogt, Director, ADG. “I commend Elise and the DPG team for their efforts in supporting those who may be impacted by problem gambling.”

“March, with events like college basketball’s March Madness, can present opportunities to relapse and cause financial harm for those who may struggle with problem gambling,” said Elise Mikkelsen, Director of DPG. “This makes it more important than ever to make Arizonans aware of the subsidized treatment available that can be accessed through DPG’s free, 24/7 confidential helpline.”

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, DPG urges you to get help now by calling 1-800-NEXT-STEP (1.800.639.8783), DPG’s confidential helpline or texting “NEXTSTEP” to 53342. DPG’s helpline provides confidentiality and connects callers with a master’s level counselor who can get them in touch 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 DPG resources: <https://problemgambling.az.gov/>

## **About ADG**

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

## **About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

NCPG is the national advocate for people and families affected by problem gambling. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to promote responsible gambling. For information on NCPG's 35th National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling, visit [www.ncpgambling.org/conference](http://www.ncpgambling.org/conference).

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GOVERNOR DOUGLAS A. DUCEY

STATE OF ARIZONA  
★  
PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, many forms of legalized gaming exist in Arizona, including the Arizona Lottery, Indian gaming, racing pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering, bingo, event wagering, fantasy sports, charitable gaming, amusement gambling, and social gambling; and

**WHEREAS**, Arizona Indian gaming provides substantial funds to support problem gambling programs throughout the State; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 2 percent of adults and 5 percent of youth in Arizona have a problem with gambling and adults who seek problem gambling treatment often report gambling from an early age; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arizona Department of Gaming 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; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1998, the State of Arizona has had a formal statewide responsible gambling program; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Council on Problem Gambling and the Association of Problem Gambling Services Administrators have declared the month of March as National Problem Gambling Awareness Month; and

**WHEREAS**, through education and programming, potential, and existing gambling-related problems can be addressed by individuals, organizations, and state and tribal governments.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Douglas A. Ducey, Governor of the State of Arizona, do hereby proclaim March 2022 as

**ARIZONA PROBLEM GAMBLING AWARENESS MONTH**



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona

*Douglas A. Ducey*  
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this fourteenth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Two and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Forty-Sixth.

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*

SECRETARY OF STATE