



**Council on  
Compulsive Gambling  
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## **Pennsylvania Gambling Expansion Warrants an Increase in Awareness of Resources**

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed legislation on Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> authorizing a major expansion of gambling throughout the state. Under this legislation, Pennsylvania becomes the fourth state to offer online gambling, and the first state to offer online play via the state lottery and commercial casinos.

The Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, Inc. (CCGP) warns that with increased gambling availability and participation, there comes the potential for an increase in the risk of problems for some. “Legalized online gambling in Pennsylvania brings games of chance from the casino floor right into to your living room. This will be a source of entertainment for most, but our focus is on the small percentage of the population who will not be able to maintain a safe level of play,” states Josh Ercole, Chief Operating Officer. “We are neither for, nor against, gambling, but want to make sure that as this legislation rolls out, the resources for PA residents with gambling related issues are widely accessible and at the ready.”

In 2015, CCGP implemented a text and chat line option via their website, [www.pacouncil.com](http://www.pacouncil.com), for those seeking help with a gambling problem, which will prove to be a vital resource for those choosing to gamble online. The CCGP also manages the 24/7, free and confidential problem gambling helpline in Pennsylvania. Callers seeking help are referred to the closest resources which may include trained clinicians, Gamblers Anonymous or Gam-Anon meetings, or Self-Exclusion. The Helpline uses the ATT-language line to assist callers who may speak any of over 120 languages, and TTY to offer referral information and assistance to the hard of hearing and deaf community.

If you or someone in you know in Pennsylvania has a gambling problem, please call 1-800-848-1880 or 1-800-GAMBLER. To learn more about the Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania, Inc. and find additional resources, visit [www.pacouncil.com](http://www.pacouncil.com).

*The Council on Compulsive Gambling of Pennsylvania is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization affiliated with the National Council on Problem Gambling. Its purpose is to educate and disseminate information on compulsive gambling, facilitate referrals, and assist those seeking help for a gambling problem in the state of Pennsylvania.*