

## Adam



### INTRO

Adam is a 28 year old, Caucasian male...living somewhere in (rural) PA.

He is married, with no children.

He and his high school girlfriend, Erin, married when they were both 21

She did not know the extent of his gambling until after they were married.

### HISTORY

He reports he has been gambling since middle school. He started placing bets on sports and online gambling with his father who taught him how to gamble on sports and would place bets for him.

He was often disciplined in high school for running gambling pools, and states that he ran them and had peers and teachers participate.

He reports in addition to his father's gambling, his family would have card games on weekends and on holidays and play for pennies. Everyone would be expected to participate when they were thought to be 'old enough' and winners were often celebrated, while losers were teased. Adam remembers the excitement he felt when he would win against his family and the positive support about how 'good' he was when he would win.

He has been a lifelong fan of video games, and continues to play today – often when he is making attempts to cut down on, or stop gambling. When he goes on 'stretches' of playing video games, he reports that he 'often stays up very late into the night' playing them, and finds that he dreams about them in his sleep. He feels that they are bad for him getting rest, but act as a good distraction from the gambling, and don't 'cost anything' to play.

### CURRENTLY

He states he recognized having a problem and is open to getting help, but mainly because he doesn't want to hurt his wife anymore

He is open to counseling, however, he has not been able to locate any counselors who offer gambling in his area and he is not willing to drive 'hours and hours' for this.

He is open to virtual therapy and states that he would actually prefer an online option as he has a high level of comfort when it comes to technology (that is how he has been betting on sports).

Adam does NOT like the idea of sitting in meetings – he IS willing to attend phone meetings

He identifies Erin as being very supportive and willing to help him in his recovery

## Bill



### INTRO

Bill is a 59 year old Caucasian male...living somewhere in (urban) PA.

He is single, has no children and lives alone

### HISTORY

Bill reports that he 'has been gambling for MANY years.

He claims that gambling is 'a little problematic' for him, but it could be a lot worse.

He reports moving to Nevada several years ago (2006), due to the fact that table games were legal there. After PA legalized table games in 2010 he moved back to the state and has been here since.

### LEGAL / GTDC

He is coming to counseling due to recent charges for embezzlement at his job (Bill works as an Actuary) and through a youth football league where he volunteers as treasurer. He claims the football league is distorting 'all of the facts'.

He was charged with embezzling approximately \$100,000 from the league over the past 3 years. He denies it is anywhere near that much and claims that he only 'borrowed' it, as he was going to pay it back as soon as he 'got on a hot streak'.

### FAMILY / RELATIONSHIPS

He reports not needing people in his life, and he is comfortable being alone, however, he does claim to feel that he has 'a gift' with people, as he can often convince them to give him money.

He reports having had several friends throughout his life, but they have all been short term relationships, largely as result of financial interactions (he borrows money and doesn't pay it back).

### FINANCES

Bill reports that his lawyer is advising he files for bankruptcy because he is several months late in bills/rent and has credit card debts around 50,000.

He turns to gambling to forget his financial problems and sees every win as a sign that this is 'exactly what he needs to do to fix everything'.

## Carol



### INTRO

Carol is a 70 year-old, African American woman... living somewhere in (suburban) PA.

She lives by herself, and has been on her own for 12 years, since her divorce from her husband at 58.

She has two adult children, neither of whom are aware of any issues.

### HISTORY

She reports spending 'only a hundred dollars, or so, a month' on gambling.

She primarily plays slot machines and playing bingo. She also plays several similar style games on her mobile phone, many of which offer 'in app purchases'. She has 'yet' to spend anything on these games – but does consider it often.

She reports that bingo is fun because she enjoys spending time with her friends. Playing Slots is something she prefers to do on her own, as she feels it offers her an 'escape'.

She identifies that she enjoys having something that is 'all hers' and being able to 'get away from things and not having to think' – playing slots seems to offer her this. 'I feel free when I play', Carol says.

She reports having given up some other activities (exercise, yoga at the local senior center) because 'while they helped me as I went through my divorce, they don't offer the same feeling that the slots do.'

Financially, Carol feels that since she 'can afford it', and since she has worked hard for her entire life, why shouldn't she do something that feels good?

That being said, some recent events have her worried about future financial security and she is asking if you offer services to assist her.

### FAITH / SPIRITUALITY

She identifies her religion as Baptist and indicates her faith is very important to her and helps her to 'get through things'.

### CO-OCCURRING

She reports having a history of depression.

She reports that she does not use alcohol or substances as they do not fit her beliefs from a faith perspective.

## Diego



### INTRO

Diego is a 35 year old Latino male...living somewhere in (suburban) PA.

He is here because his wife (Flora) told him “you better get it together”.

He does not believe that counseling is beneficial and feels that nobody can understand him.

He recognizes that he has a short temper and is relatively ‘high strung’.

He often spends the last couple hundred dollars he has budgeted for ‘spending money’ on scratch offs and occasionally on slot machines when he feels that he is under a lot of pressure.

### HISTORY

He grew up in Puerto Rico and family moved to PA when he was 10.

He was raised in a strict household and is married to a woman who was also born in Puerto Rico and raised in a similar family dynamic.

He reports having served in the Army for 10 years and while overseas on deployment he regularly played slots on base and had friends who sent him scratch offs in care packages.

### FAMILY

His wife and kids have told him on several occasions that he gambles too much.

He doesn’t think his gambling is a problem and can’t see any reason, need or way to stop. He says it helps to keep him calm, however his wife/kids being upset impacts him.

His wife complains that he often just sits around the house and withdraws from any interaction with her and his two teenage children.

He reports being married at 18 and that ‘he and his wife have been together forever’.

Family is very important to him, but he feels that when they ‘get on him about gambling’ it just leads to him wanting to gamble more.

### CO-OCCURRING

He does report that he thinks he may have “that trauma thing” that happens when people are in the military and witness/experience combat.