

Missouri Division of Alcohol & Drug Abuse

Free Compulsive Gambling Treatment Services

Insuring the availability of free treatment services to compulsive gamblers and their family members is a primary responsibility of the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. The agency contracts with certified compulsive gambling counselors to provide the treatment at no charge. During 2009, approximately 343 clients accessed the free treatment services.

Funding for treatment is derived from a portion of the admission fees paid by the casinos to the state that is then appropriated annually to the Missouri Department of Mental Health's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse. This funding allows for the provision of free treatment services. To receive services, gambling clients must be 18 years of age, be residents of the state of Missouri, and meet diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling as set forth in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Services available to gamblers include individual counseling, group counseling and family therapy. Family members affected by a problem gambler can also receive treatment services, which include individual codependency counseling, group codependency counseling and family therapy.

Individuals seeking referral to a counselor in a specific area can view a list of Missouri certified compulsive gambling counselors online at http://www.888betsoff.org/alliance/CCGC_providers.shtm, visit www.dmh.mo.gov, or call the help line at 1-888-BETSOFF.

