

# Missouri Gaming Commission

The Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) administers a statewide self-exclusion program for problem and pathological gamblers. The voluntary exclusion program is also known as the List of Disassociated Persons (DAP); the self-exclusion is currently a lifetime self-exclusion with no procedures for removal.

More than 1,279 individuals initiated applications for placement on the List of Disassociated Persons during 2009. More than 13,500 individuals have placed themselves on the state's self-exclusion list since it began in 1998.

MGC created the voluntary exclusion program in 1996 in response to a citizen's request to be banned from the excursion gambling boats because he recognized the need for an external tool to self-exclude from all casinos in the state as a part of his recovery program.

The first of its kind in the U.S., this unique program provides problem gamblers with a method to acknowledge a gambling problem and take personal responsibility for it by agreeing to stop visiting casinos. At that time, the consensus in the field among treatment professionals and researchers was that there is no cure for pathological gambling and therefore the program should be for life with no provision for removal.

Under the rules of the program, the problem gambler accepts responsibility for staying out of Missouri casinos, and agrees that it is not the responsibility of the casinos or MGC to prevent them from entering the casinos. The problem gambler also agrees that if s/he chooses to violate the program and is discovered, s/he will be arrested for trespassing.

Under this program, MGC requires all licensees (excursion casino operators) to:

- Remove persons in the program from their direct marketing lists;
- Deny membership in player programs and invalidate player's club accounts;
- Deny check cashing privileges; and
- Consult the list of people in the program before paying out any jackpot of \$1,200 or more.

In addition to administering the voluntary exclusion program, MGC also does the following:

- Helps plan the annual Midwest Conferences on Problem Gambling and Substance Abuse;
- Assists problem gamblers and their families in locating treatment and other resources;
- Develops and maintains a supply of collateral materials for education and prevention efforts;
- Assembles information on problem gambling resources throughout the state and continent; and
- Reviews pending legislation for potential impact on problem gambling issues.

