



NEWS RELEASE

## Kansas Lottery Joins Campaign to Raise Awareness About the Risks of Youth Gambling

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Topeka, Kansas**– The Kansas Lottery today announced its commitment as a Level 1 participant of the 2023 Gift Responsibly Campaign, joining lotteries and community organizations across North America and around the world to raise awareness about the risks of underage lottery use. The campaign is organized by the [National Council on Problem Gambling](#) (NCPG) and the [International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors](#) at McGill University.

Research shows that the earlier a person's participation or exposure to gambling is in childhood, the more likely they are to develop a gambling problem later in life. Gambling exposure during childhood may come from a variety of sources, including observing or joining in adult poker games, playing videogames with paid loot boxes, and exposure to lottery products like instant scratch tickets, which might be given to a child by an adult who is unaware of the associated risks. The campaign raises awareness that lottery tickets are not appropriate gifts for children

"The Kansas Lottery is pleased to once again be taking part in the Gift Responsibly campaign," said Stephen Durrell, Executive Director of the Kansas Lottery. "Responsible gaming is incredibly important to all of us at the Kansas Lottery, and we always remind our players that while lottery tickets can make great gifts, they are for your 18 and older friends and family only."

The Kansas Lottery has signed on to the 2023 Gift Responsibly Campaign as a Level 1 participant. During November and December, the Kansas Lottery will work to promote awareness about the risks of underage lottery use by social media, live streams, and raising awareness with players and retailers.

"The potential long-term risks associated with underage gambling exposure cannot be understated," said Keith Whyte, NCPG Executive Director. "I commend each Gift Responsibly Campaign participant for their commitment to raising awareness about the risks of youth gambling. Now, more than ever, we must continue to insist that lottery tickets are never appropriate gifts for children."

### About the Kansas Lottery

In November of 1986, 64 percent of Kansas voters approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the creation of a state lottery. The Kansas Legislature passed the "Kansas Lottery Act" in 1987, and the

Kansas Lottery was established. The mission of the Kansas Lottery is to produce the maximum amount of revenue possible for the State of Kansas while ensuring the integrity of all games.

The Kansas Lottery sells \$1, \$2, \$3, \$5, \$10, \$20 and \$30 scratch tickets and \$1 and \$2 instant pull tab games. In addition, Kansas Lottery players enjoy Powerball, Mega Millions, Lotto America, Lucky for Life, Super Kansas Cash, Pick 3, 2by2, Keno and Racetrax draw games. Kansas Lottery products are sold at approximately 1,750 retail locations.

The Kansas Lottery is headed by an Executive Director who is appointed by the governor.

**About the National Council on Problem Gambling**

The National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) is neutral on legalized gambling. Based in Washington DC, NCPG is the only national nonprofit organization that seeks to minimize the economic and social costs associated with gambling addiction. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline, which offers hope and help without stigma or shame. Call or text 1-800-GAMBLER or visit [www.1800gamblerchat.org](http://www.1800gamblerchat.org). Help is available 24/7 – it is free and confidential.

**About International Center for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviors at McGill University**

For over 20 years, the International Centre for Youth Gambling Problems and High-Risk Behaviours at McGill University has been at the forefront of leading-edge research aimed at identifying and understanding the critical factors related to youth gambling issues.

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