

**For Immediate Release**  
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**SAFE, Inc.**

### **SAFE Hosts Parent University Workshop on Problem Gambling**

On April 25th, SAFE hosted a Parent University prevention education workshop on the heels of last month's Problem Gambling Awareness National Campaign to share important information on the perils of gambling – when it is a problem, where help is available and the signs to recognize if it may become a problem. SAFE's Coalition Liaison, Ashley Ferruffino, presented a workshop at the Deasy School that included a PowerPoint presentation followed by question and answer period toward the end of the program.

There are five different types of gambling, said Ferruffino. They include the social gambler that engages in the activity for leisure, the problem gambler who's involvement is more excessive, a pathological gambler who has an uncontrollable response to gambling, the organized crime gambler that launders illegal funds through illegal resources and the professional gambler who does it for a living in a controlled fashion and can deal with their loses. "It is important that parents learn about gambling because roughly 46% of high school aged youth will gamble at least once this year" stated Ferruffino.

According to the American Psychiatric Association, Problem gambling—or gambling addiction—includes all gambling behavior patterns that compromise, disrupt or damage personal, family or vocational pursuits. The essential features are increasing preoccupation with gambling, a need to bet more money more frequently, restlessness or irritability when attempting to stop, "chasing" losses, and loss of control manifested by continuation of the gambling behavior in spite of mounting, serious, negative consequences. In extreme cases, problem gambling can result in financial ruin, legal problems, loss of career and family, or even suicide.

The National Council on Problem Gambling maintains 2 million (1%) of U.S. adults are estimated to meet criteria for pathological gambling in a given year. Another 4-6 million (2-3%) would be considered problem gamblers; that is, they do not meet the full diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling, but meet one of more of the criteria and are experiencing problems due to their gambling behavior. Research also indicates that most adults who choose to gamble are able to do responsibly.

SAFE is a not for profit alcohol and substance abuse prevention, intervention and education agency located in Glen Cove City Hall. For further information on SAFE visit our website at

[www.safeglencove.org](http://www.safeglencove.org) and follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/GlenCovePrideCoalition).

**To get further information or help with a gambling problem**

**Gamblers Anonymous**

**(213) 386-8789**

**[www.gambleranonymous.org](http://www.gambleranonymous.org)**

**NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services**

**(877) 8-HOPENY**

**NY Council on Problem Gambling**

**(518) 867-4084**

**The National Council on Problem Gambling**

**24 hour Helpline**

**1-(800) 522-4700**

**American Psychiatric Association's criteria for gambling addiction**

**[www.psych.org](http://www.psych.org)**.