



COUNTY OF YOLO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 5, 2012 **Contact:** Jonathan Raven, Chief Deputy District Attorney
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Problem Gambling Awareness Week: March 4-10

(Woodland, CA) – March 5, 2012 - District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that the week of March 4-10 is designated as “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week” throughout the United States.

The overall lifetime prevalence rate of problem and pathological gambling in California is 3.7 %. Problem gambling is defined as a pattern of gambling behavior that disrupts or compromises family or personal pursuits. Pathological gambling is defined as a loss of control over gambling and preoccupation with gambling.

The State of California’s Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs has an Office of Problem Gambling (OPG) which is charged with developing statewide programs to address problem and pathological gambling. Recognizing this serious issue, OPG implemented state-funded treatment for those adversely affected by problem gambling in 2011.

A primary goal of “National Problem Gambling Awareness Week” is outreach and education. By educating the public about the warnings signs of problem and pathological gambling, those affected will be better equipped to address this issue and eliminate or reduce its impact.

On March 5-6, OPG is holding its third annual training summit in San Diego entitled “Building a Foundation for Multi-Cultural Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Services.” To find out more information about the summit and issues relating to problem gambling, contact OPG at (916) 327-8611 or www.problemgambling.ca.gov.

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