



ILCAAAP

Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

[Visit Our Website](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Gambling Alert - July 5, 2022



Spain to ban loot boxes for minors

Loot boxes – a video game mechanic in which a player pays for a game where they may receive an in-game item as decided by a random number generator – have been a major topic of discussion in Spain recently. Last year, regulator the Dirección General de Ordenación del Juego (DGOJ) **opened a consultation** asking whether loot boxes should require new regulation, be regulated as gambling products or prohibited entirely. This new consultation follows on from 2021's. The current consultation determined that there was a “clear similarity” between loot boxes and gambling, but also noted that there were differences that “cannot be ignored”. It noted that under current rules, for an activity to be gambling it must meet three conditions. The report found that the “peculiarities” of loot boxes ultimately meant that a specific set of ad hoc rules needed to be established. These rules include a ban on the use of loot boxes by minors, defined as those under 18. “In order to guarantee the effectiveness of this prohibition, the entities that offer loot boxes must enable a documentary verification system of the identity of the participants,” it said. [Read](#)

FMIA Guest: Gamblers Anonymous Member On

The Lead: NFL Gambling

So what does this have to do with the NFL? Why did Peter King give me this space to tell my story and the stories of others close to me? When I turn on the TV today and see wall-to-wall ads urging people to gamble on sports, I think about the major influence the commercials are having. I think about the thousands, perhaps millions, of people who are likely to start betting on sports. The league, team and betting company commercials—luring viewers with great deals if they download the app and open an account—follow every major sport now, so it's impossible to watch a game and not be bombarded by betting ads. Many bettors are able to handle gambling. But many also will be me. They rationalize, "This is going to make the games more fun," or "This will be a way to make me interested in games I don't care about." Both are true. But they're also fool's gold. Eventually, with gambling accounts tied to an app and credit card, the bill comes due.

The moment 20 years ago is etched in my mind. I had a great job and an office with a dream view. The phone rang, and when I picked up, I heard a hysterical cry on the other end. "What have you done?" my wife shrieked. She discovered that I cleared out an entire investment account of thousands of dollars.

She was beyond disbelief when she discovered the facts. My emotions overflowed. I knew my gambling was wrong and out of control. Even worse, we had been through this before. I was mortified at being caught, embarrassing my wife and family. Still, despite the pain, the remorse, the self-loathing, there was also relief.

I had an addiction. I was sick. I needed help. I led a secret life, dishonest, self-centered, manipulative. It took time, but I began to see that if I could stop gambling, become transparent about my actions, start doing the right things, my life, our lives, could be saved and healed. [Read](#)

For Immediate Action

- Share this Alert with your faith community and PRAY.
- Forward to 10 others.

Click here to donate to Illinois Churches in Action (tax deductible)

Donate Now