

# Video Gambling and Crime in Illinois

Compiled from media reports August, 2013 – May, 2019

**Crest Hill** reports a domestic violence incident after a man left his mistress bruised and bloodied at her house after they had been drinking in bar, where they were playing the video gambling machines. The woman had lost around \$240 on video poker and recently lost her job so he did not want her (to) spend more money.” The incident occurred when the woman went home to get more cash and a debit card to continue gambling. (*Joliet patch, May 15, 2019*) <https://patch.com/illinois/joliet/joliet-detectives-mistress-feared-her-life-police-told>

**Franklin Park** - Dottie's was broken into, with burglars prying opening an ATM and stealing \$50,000 in cash in 2 ½ minutes. Burglars cut a large hole through the wall of a Chinese restaurant next door. (*Pioneer Press, 4/12/2019*)

**Sycamore** - Police have arrested one of the people who made off with hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash in a daylight armored car burglary while it was parked in front of Charley's video gambling parlor in June. (*Daily Chronicle, March 26, 2019*)

**Decatur** - A man was arrested and booked on a preliminary charge of drug possession after police say he was caught snorting methamphetamine from the top of a video gambling machine at Lindy Lu's gaming parlor. (*Herald & Review, 3/20/2019*)

**Decatur** - An argument that erupted inside a Decatur video gambling parlor ended with a man slamming his girlfriend's head into the ground multiple times before she was punched in the face. (*Herald & Review, 3/13/2019*)

**Decatur** – A man caught counting out cash from a video gambling parlor burglary was sentenced to 3 years in prison. Three men emptied an ATM machine at Lacey's Place on Nov. 7, and were counting out armfuls of cash when a Sangamon Co. Sheriff's patrol walked up to their SUV on a vacant lot. (*Herald & Review 3/6/2019*)

**Peoria County** – A gambler, angry that he had lost \$200 in a video gambling machine, but had won only 40 cents, punched and shattered the glass on a terminal at a bar. The man agreed he had a gambling problem and agreed to pay for damages. He was charged with criminal damage to property (\$250). (*Peoria Journal-Star, Feb. 26, 2019*)

**Palos Hills** - A woman was arrested after witnesses reported two young children left alone in a car for over an hour. The mother of a 1 year old and 3 month old baby was gambling inside a video gambling parlor. (*January 29, 2019, Patch*)

DNA links Elburn man to attempted 2018 burglary of **Sandwich video gambling machine** - Plante didn't get any money out of the gambling machine, but he did cause \$8,000 to \$12,000 worth of damage (*Daily Chronicle, Jan. 26, 2019*)

**Decatur** woman staged a fake robbery at a video gambling business where she was employed. She was given away by a text message sent from her cell phone that said, "U gotta make it look like u really robbing me." (*Herald & Review, Jan 7, 2019*)

**Urbana** - Police are investigating an armed robbery at Ruby's, a video gambling parlor on Dec. 23. A woman battered a 47-year-old Urbana woman, sprayed her with pepper spray, stole money from the gambling facility and fled the scene. (*Champaign News-Gazette, 12/26/2018*)

**Millstadt** – A regional manager for Grand River Jackpot is accused of having a gun and robbing two of the company's couriers as they completed their route in Millstadt. James Dieters was charged with armed robbery, possession of stolen license plates, and resisting a police officer. (*Belleville News-Democrat, Dec. 17, 2018*)

**Madison County** – Armed robbery at rural Granite City establishment, where two men demanded money from an employee who had just emptied the video gambling machines. (BND, 12/17/2018)

**Springfield** – A man robbed Miss Kimmee's video gambling parlor on Sangamon Ave., Sunday morning. The man entered the building at 8:15 a.m. with a plastic bag over his right hand. The man implied he had a gun and demanded money. (*The State Journal-Register, Dec. 2, 2018*)

**Champaign** – Armed robbery at Lacey's Place Slots & Video Poker. The *News Gazette* reports a man approached a woman, showed a gun, and demanded money. After she gave him cash, he ran off. (Nov. 26, 2018)

**River Grove** – Theft at Hanging Gardens on Sept. 29, where 4 video gambling machines, an ATM, and cash register were broken into, with \$32,515 reported stolen. (*People & Places news, Nov. 2018*)

**DeKalb** - Prosecutors say a Kingston woman used revenue from her DeKalb video gambling parlor to try to pay back more than \$250,000 she'd embezzled while a general manager of a Wisconsin newspaper company. (*Sauk Valley.com, Oct. 4, 2018*)

**Elmwood Park** Burglary – “Subjects forced their way into the Elmwood Restaurant, then pried open the video gambling devices, taking an undetermined amount of money.” *People and Places Newspaper, October, 2018.*

**Decatur** - A disagreement over video gambling winnings may have led to a deadly stabbing. During an interview, James said after helping a man win money on the slot machine, he asked him for \$20 but was refused. (*August 13, 2018, WAND-TV, Decatur*)

**A Putnam County** jury found a man guilty of first-degree murder and concealment of the homicidal death of his sister-in-law. Anderson's video gambling and payday loans were used in the establishment a motive. (*mywebsites.com, July 7, 2018*)

**Sycamore** police are investigating a robbery of an armored car parked outside of a video gambling parlor at 9:41 a.m. (*Daily Chronicle, June 28, 2018*)

**Moline** - An armed robbery of a video gambling parlor left an employee injured, when he was struck with a firearm. “Three suspects unsuccessfully tried to use crowbars to break into the video gaming terminals before fleeing with a small amount of money taken from an area near the employee counter”. (*Dispatch-Argus, June 4, 2018*)

**Rockford** armed robbery at Ms. Jill's Video Poker and Slots on State Street. A man entered the business with a handgun and demanded money from the clerk. No customers were there. (*MyStateline.com, May 22, 2018*)

**River Grove** Criminal Damage – Stella’s on Thatcher Ave. reported a **slot machine damaged by a customer upset with losing all his money to it**. The man was said to have punched the machine, knocking a light bar off the side. He reportedly ran out and over the ally where an employee lost sight of him. (*April 26, 2018, People & Places*)

**Decatur** bar employee **steals \$500, spends it on gambling machines at work**. (*Herald-Review, March 27, 2018*)

**Decatur** – A video gambling employee was robbed. The employee was taking out the trash at Pearl’s, located in the 2100 block of Pershing Road, when a man threatened him with a knife and took all of his money. (*WAND-TV, January 24, 2018*)

**Champaign** man will serve 10 years in prison for robbery of a video gambling parlor. (*News-Gazette, Jan. 11, 2018*)

**Joliet** – A man told an 11-year-old girl she was “sexy,” then followed her around the West Jefferson Street Walmart before heading over to a nearby gambling parlor, where he made lewd remarks to two grown women, police said. (*The Herald News, January 8, 2018*)

**A string of gambling machine robberies** at truck stops in Marion, Monee, Downs, and Pocahontas. One man acts as a lookout while the other breaks into the redemption machines to remove the cash. (*Belleville News Democrat, 1/3/2018*)

**Decatur** burglary suspects were still counting loot when arrested. Power to Lacey's Place was disabled, there were signs of forced entry and a “large amount” of cash was stolen from an ATM. (*Herald & Review 11/ 21/2017*)

**Peoria Heights** - A masked and **armed robber pointed a gun at the head of a customer at Dotty’s** and told everyone else not to move. A second male took an undetermined amount of money from the business, according to the police. **The gambling parlor never closed; police were interviewing customers and eyewitnesses as they operated the machines.** (*Peoria Journal Star, 11/17/2017*)

**Peoria** police are investigating a break in at a Central Peoria tavern, where video gambling machines were forced open and the money stolen. (*Peoria Journal Star, 11/16/2017*)

**Mt. Vernon** police received a report from an employee with the gaming industry saying someone broke into a video gambling machine at the TA Truck Stop. (*Mt. Vernon Daily-Record, 10/30/17*)

**Moline** police are looking for the man behind a string of burglaries at Moline bars and taverns. On Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 a.m. he forced his way into an empty bar and took money from four video gambling machines. (*WQAD 8, 10/19/2017*)

**Champaign** police are looking for a woman who robbed Ruby’s Slots and Video Poker gambling parlor. She demanded money from the female employee and pushed the clerk toward the safe. The robber left with a bag of cash, the *News-Gazette* reported. (10/6/2017)

**River Grove** - Someone broke the glass display Sept. 15 on a video gaming machine at the Black Stone Café, 8535 Grand Ave. and left the scene before police arrived, the *Chicago Tribune* reported.

**Springfield** – Three video gambling establishments (Darcy’s Pint, Capitol City Bar and Grill, and West Side Pub) were burglarized overnight. There was a substantial amount of damage to the ATMs, video gambling machines, and safes, and a substantial amount of money taken. (*Fox IL News, 9/14/17*)

An **Alton** bar had its license suspended for one day and had to add security measures after a **shooting and stabbing**. The shooting happened in the video gaming, with the suspect and victim playing machines next to each other at 2 a.m., having an exchange of words, then one pulling a gun and firing at the other. (*The Telegraph, Aug. 25, 2017*)

**Dixon** Coin Wash Laundromat was **burglarized**. An unknown subject entered the business and forced entry into two coin-operated video gaming machines. (*WQAD, Aug. 21, 2017*)

**Springfield** police are investigating an **armed robbery** at Dotty’s gambling parlor. An employee told officers a man displayed a handgun and began to punch the employee with his fists. The gunman demanded money and fled after taking the money. (*The State Journal-Register, 8/12/2017*)

**Springfield** Crime Stoppers crime of the week was an **armed robbery** at Lucy’s Place. (*7/14/2017, The State Journal-Register*)

A man is accused of **stealing more than \$25,000 from gambling machines** belonging to Gaming & Entertainment Management (GEM). The man worked as a collector, going around emptying the money from the machines in video gambling establishments. (*Naperville Sun, June 12, 2017*)

**Armed robbery** at Lacey’s video gambling parlor in **Decatur** the *Herald & Review* reported 6/2/2017.

**Forest Park** - A man living above the tavern is accused of breaking into the bar twice within a week, stealing thousands of dollars from video gambling machines and more than 30 bottles of liquor. In the May 21 incident, police found more than \$8,000 taken from gambling machines which had been pried and drilled open. *Forest Park Review, May 30, 2017*

**Decatur** police seek help in finding a suspect who **took an ATM** with cash stored inside from Carolyn’s Mega Slots between 2 and 6:30 a.m. on May 11, 2017. (*Herald-Review*)

**Armed robbery** at Dotty’s video gambling parlor in **Champaign** at 2:00 AM, April 9, 2017 – *FOX IL*.

**Kane County** Sheriff’s deputies responded to a complaint of criminal damage to property at a bar in Elgin where **a man smashed a video gambling machine**. The bar was cited for liquor control violations. (*The Courier-News, 3/15/2017*)

Authorities are searching for a suspect accused of **shooting a man in a Marion bar**. Deputies with the Williamson County Sheriff’s Office were dispatched to the Pit Stop Bar after receiving a report of shots fired on Feb. 22, 2017. **The suspect was asked to stop banging on the side of a video gaming machine with his hand when he then reached into the backpack he was carrying and the gun fired, striking another customer.** (*KFVS12*)

**Theft at Effingham TA Truckstop** on Feb. 27, 2017 of an undisclosed amount of money from two video gambling machines. <http://www.thexradio.com>

**Sandoval** man pled guilty to **felony theft** for allegedly taking over \$500 from Faye’s Place in Central City last November. There was only one employee in the business at the time of the robbery. (*WJBD*)

radio, 11/27/2016) He was sentenced to 30 months probation, 180 days in the Marion County Jail with credit for time served, ordered to undergo drug and alcohol evaluation and treatment, and make \$148 in restitution. (*WJBD radio, 2/1/2017*)

A **Lockport** mother left her 12-year old son in a car unattended while she gambled in a video gambling parlor. (*1/30/2017, Joliet Herald-News*)

**Armed robbery in Darien at Dotty's video gambling parlor Christmas Eve.** The robber showed a handgun to the cashier, who was alone in the place, and demanded money. (*Chicago Tribune, 1/04/2017*)

**Champaign** police are seeking help solving an **armed robbery** at Emma's video gambling parlor. (*The News-Gazette, December 18, 2016*)

**Springfield** police are seeking information on a Strong Armed Robbery at Betty's Place Video Gaming Parlor on Wabash Avenue on November 23, 2016. A female took a purse which belonged to a patron. Another customer followed the thief outside and attempted to recover the stolen purse but was battered by the perpetrator who was able to escape. (*Crime Stoppers, 12/1/2016*)

**An undetermined amount of cash was stolen** from a video gaming machine owned by B & B Amusement in **Effingham**. (*November 10, 2016*)

**Arrests made in burglaries involving ATMs, gambling machines.** Two people were arrested in connection with **23 burglaries** reported at central Illinois establishments with ATMs and video gaming machines. (*Quincy Herald-Whig, 9/21/2016*)

**ATMs and gambling machines hit in break-ins.** **Jacksonville** police are recommending businesses take extra precautions after a series of burglaries appear to target ATMs and video gambling machines. Break-ins occurred at the Moose Lodge, VFW, and Bowl Inn. (*Jacksonville Journal Courier, 8/24/16*)

**Burglary at Moose Lodge in Pittsfield** – an undetermined amount of cash was taken from video gambling machines and an ATM. (*Quincy Whig, 9/6/16*)

**Man was charged with retail theft.** The charge alleges he obtained money from a video gaming establishment in **Charleston** by presenting them with tickets that had already been redeemed. (*Journal Gazette & Times Courier, 8/31/2016*)

A man has been charged with **burglary at a video gambling parlor in Wood River**. He broke into Lucy's Place and stole cash on Feb. 7, 2016. (*Belleville News Democrat, 2/20/16*)

**Tazewell County** grand jury indicts former Twin Oaks employee **accused of taking money from a disabled person to gamble.** She also took two residents to a video gambling bar and was **indicted on charges of felony and unlawful financial exploitation of a disabled person.** (*Peoria Journal Star, 3/31/2016*)

**Police are investigating a robbery of a video gambling employee in Elmwood Park who was robbed of \$10,000** when approached by a man with a gun and told to hand over the backpack that he was carrying. **The money was to put in the video gambling automatic teller machine which dispenses cash winners.** (*Dec. 1, 2015*)

A **rash of burglaries in Livingston County** includes two break-ins at video gambling establishments. In Dwight, a "substantial" amount of cash had been stolen from the **Illinois Gaming Board payout station** at

Victory Lanes, which had been pried open. At Roadrunner's Family Restaurant in Emington, an "unspecified" amount of cash was taken from an ATM and gambling machine, which were damaged in the burglary.. (*Pontiac Daily Leader, March 25, 2016*)

**Macomb** police are investigating a **burglary at the Eagles Club aerie**. Sometime after the bar closed the night before, someone broke into the three video gambling machines and jukebox. (*McDonough County Voice, Mar. 11, 2016*)

**Leroy** requires video cameras in any business with liquor and gambling machine licenses. The changes were spurred by a minor incident in which a business was unable to produce adequate video to police. (*The News-Gazette, Mar. 15, 2016*)

**Dad gambled in Morton Grove bar while son left in car**. The **3 year old boy** was found wandering **near a busy intersection at 11:00 p.m.**, while his dad was in a bar. He allegedly went inside to order food, and played video gambling while he waited. (*Pioneer Press, 6/29/2015*)

**Urbana** police arrested a man after he allegedly **tried to cash some stolen winning video-gambling tickets**. A woman left her winning tickets sitting on the machine in a bar before she walked away. A man took the tickets then came back into the bar to try to cash them. (*News-Gazette, 3/13/2016*)

**Woodstock** Police are investigating a break-in at Coleman's Tavern & Grill. Once inside, the offenders **broke into the video gambling payment** machine and stole an undisclosed amount of cash. (*Woodstock Independent, 12/9/2015*)

Video gambling thief hits **Quad Cities**. **At least 5 stores or bars have been burglarized** in the past few months, with suspects opening video gambling machines and cash registers. (*KWQC, 7/2/15*)

**Trio accused of breaking into stores, video gambling machines**. Three young people are accused of breaking into businesses and cracking open video gambling machines in a spree that affected stores in **Round Lake Beach, Lindenhurst, Waukegan, Gurnee, and unincorporated Lake County**. The suspects stole merchandise and caused extensive damage. <http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Trio-Accused-of-Breaking-Into-Stores-Video-Game-Machines-295490811.html>

**Criminal damage to property in Mt. Vernon** where a man was charged **for breaking glass on a video gaming machine** at Huck's. (*Mt. Vernon Register- News, Oct. 10, 2015*)

A **Pawnee video gambling parlor cited for underage alcohol sales**. Daisy's Lucky Slots failed a compliance check conducted by the Sangamon County Sherriff's Department and IL Liquor Control Commission, (*Chatham Clarion, Feb. 26, 2015, Vol. 54, No. 49*)

**Illinois Gaming Board figures show 57 burglaries and theft attempts**. There likely have been more. At least one county sheriff contacted by Lee Enterprises Springfield bureau said there were two other break-ins not reported in the gaming board statistics. [http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/debate-over-crime-video-gaming-continues/article\\_520abb1c-0b74-5a5c-a212-05c7a149ee19.html](http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/debate-over-crime-video-gaming-continues/article_520abb1c-0b74-5a5c-a212-05c7a149ee19.html)

A **Dotty's video gambling parlor in Freeport** has been **robbed TWICE in three weeks**. The first incident was on December 13, 2014, when police responded to a burglar alarm, and found damage to two gambling machines. The second robbery was Jan. 4, 2015. Police, responding to a burglar alarm at the business, found a broken window and two damaged video gaming machines from which an undisclosed amount of cash was taken. <http://www.journalstandard.com/article/20150105/News/150109761#ixzz3O4ksQgsA>

**Burglar attempts to steal slot machines at Dotty's in Rockford**. (*Rockford Register Star 2/28/2015*)

**Video gaming machine thefts on the rise in Illinois** They used to call slot machines one armed bandits. Now it appears the bandits are ripping off video gaming machines in Illinois.  
<http://kplr11.com/2014/05/28/video-gaming-machine-thefts-on-the-rise-in-Illinois>

**Crime Spree: Thieves targeting poker machines.** Thieves have broken into six bars a total of 10 times since September, each time targeting either ATMs or cash redemption machines from video gambling terminals. <http://www.sj-r.com/article/20141001/NEWS/141009920>

**Burglars take thousands of dollars from KC building.** Burglars got away with thousands of dollars after a break-in at the Christopher Knights of Columbus building sometime late Sunday or early Monday. **The burglary is at least the third to occur at Franklin County establishments with video gaming in recent months.** [http://thesouthern.com/news/local/burglars-take-thousands-of-dollars-from-kc-building/article\\_049cc971-dba3-5f49-a57b-c3830a3093f8.html](http://thesouthern.com/news/local/burglars-take-thousands-of-dollars-from-kc-building/article_049cc971-dba3-5f49-a57b-c3830a3093f8.html).

**Employee “borrows” \$200 from night drop bag to play video gambling machines.** The employee then wrote a check to cover the cash, as he had done previously. The check came back for non-sufficient funds. The owner of the Chili Bowl was told it was a civil matter. *Chillicothe Times-Bulletin*, January 8, 2014, page A6.

**Poker machines burglarized at Godfrey tavern.** Burglars forced their way into Roper’s Regal Beagle and broke into four out of five of the video poker machines in the business.  
[http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/local/article\\_20ef274c-e5cb-11e2-b9f4-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.thetelegraph.com/news/local/article_20ef274c-e5cb-11e2-b9f4-001a4bcf6878.html)

**Nearly \$29K stolen from Oak Lawn shop with video gambling.** The owner of a flower shop noticed the lock on the front door was missing and saw lights on the shop’s gambling machines flashing, indicating they had been disabled, according to the police. When the police arrived, they found 5 video gambling machines and an ATM had been pried open. A safe had been opened, and cash drawers and money canisters were scattered on the floor, according to the Southtown Star.  
<http://southtownstar.suntimes.com/news/23579786-418/nearly-29k-stolen-from-oak-lawn-shop-with-video-gambling.html>

**Police arrested several suspects involved in coin operated poker machine thefts**  
<http://www.wandtv.com/story/24193383/police-arrests-several-suspects-involved-with-coin-operated-machine-thefts>

**Five arrested in thefts from video poker machines at truck stops,** where video gambling is allowed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.sj-r.com/article/20131211/News/131219909>

**A recent string of thefts all targeted video gambling machines across southern Illinois.** The thieves used a sledge hammer to bust open the machines and a sawzall to get through the doors and into the ATM. <http://www.wsiltv.com/home/top-story/Burglars-Hit-Jackpot-on-Franklin-County-Video-Gambling-Machines-252543011.html>

**Northlake burglary targets video gambling machines.** Someone disabled the lock on the front door of Winking Dog restaurant and attempted to disable the alarm. They broke into five video gambling machines. <http://franklinpark.suntimes.com/crime/burglary-FPH-03282014:article>

**19 gambling charges dropped for possession of illegal gambling machines,** Streator man gets probation. The man forfeited more than a dozen video gambling machines after pleading guilty to possession of a prohibited gambling device and keeping a gambling place.  
[http://www.mywebtimes.com/news/local/streator-man-pleads-guilty-in-gambling-case/article\\_aab8edc9-547a-58be-8735-fe1831044a83.html](http://www.mywebtimes.com/news/local/streator-man-pleads-guilty-in-gambling-case/article_aab8edc9-547a-58be-8735-fe1831044a83.html)

Compiled from newspaper and media accounts by Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems, 1132 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL ([www.ilcaap.org](http://www.ilcaap.org))