

November 29, 2018

## NEW YORK LOTTERY URGES HOLIDAY SHOPPERS TO GIFT RESPONSIBLY

*Holiday-themed message is part of a national effort to remind adults that lottery tickets are not child's play*

The New York State Gaming Commission's Division of Lottery today renewed its appeal to Gift Responsibly this holiday season; advising holiday shoppers to avoid gifting Lottery tickets to those under the legal purchase age. The reminder marks the fifth year the Lottery has joined with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) and other Lotteries nationwide to promote the efforts made by individual lotteries to curb underage gambling and promote Responsible Play.

As part of its affiliation with New York's Responsible Play Partnership (RPP), the Lottery works year-round with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and the New York Council on Problem Gambling to build public awareness about Problem Gambling and promote access to treatment for those in need.

Earlier this year the NCPG honored the New York Lottery and its RPP partners with its 2018 Holiday Responsible Gaming Campaign Award, citing the campaign's relatable presentation of a powerful message: Lottery tickets are not suitable gifts for children.

The award-winning thirty-second Public Service Announcement - available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) - is presently running in 10 media markets statewide.

Commission Acting Executive Director Ronald Ochrym said, "The New York Gaming Commission remains committed to supporting the Gift Responsibly campaign and similar Responsible Gaming initiatives to help our players make the best, most informed decisions about the Lottery products they purchase for themselves and others."

New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services Commissioner Arlene González-Sánchez said, "While we may think giving lottery cards to minors is a fun and harmless gift, it is sending the wrong message. The earlier a young person is introduced to gambling, the more likely they are to become problem gamblers as adults - or even sooner."

New York Council on Problem Gambling Executive Director Jim Maney said, "Underage gambling is a serious problem and we discourage youth involvement in any form of gambling, including Lottery scratch-off tickets. The Council is pleased to support RPP efforts to reduce problem gambling statewide." Pursuant to N.Y. Tax Law § 1610(a), it is illegal to sell a Lottery product to underage persons (in general, 18 years of age; 21 years of age where alcohol is served).

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