

**For Immediate Release
August 6, 2009**

**For more information contact:
Mike Deines, Director of Communications
(785) 296-5800**

**KANSAS RACING AND GAMING COMMISSION KICKS OFF
STATEWIDE VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION PROGRAM FOR PROBLEM
GAMBLERS**

Topeka - The Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission announced today the creation of the Kansas Voluntary Exclusion Program for problem gamblers. This statewide program allows citizens to ban themselves voluntarily from Kansas casinos.

“Kansas is not the first state to initiate this type of program, but we believe our effort is state of the art that takes the latest research into account,” said KRGC Executive Director Stephen Martino. “The voluntary exclusion program will be a key resource for those people who struggle with a gambling addiction.”

Individuals can apply for the program at the KRGC’s Topeka office or at any Kansas casino. The first facility is scheduled to open in Dodge City later this year.

Key provisions of the program include:

- Individuals must apply in person and of their own free will. Family members and friends cannot sign up someone else for the program.
- Individuals will have a choice of either a two-year or a lifetime ban.
- If a person signed up for a two-year ban wants to come off of the exclusion list, they must apply for removal, complete a problem gambling assessment by a certified counselor and take a series of healthy lifestyles classes.
- Any excluded person found at a casino will be arrested for trespassing and will surrender any jackpots or other winnings.
- All names on the voluntary exclusion list will be kept confidential.
- Any person signed up for the program will be banned from all Kansas casinos, pari-mutuel racetracks and fair association race meets.

Those interested in signing up for the Voluntary Exclusion Program can call the program’s coordinator at 785-296-5800. At that time an appointment will be made for an interview. All interviews will be conducted by Kansas Racing and Gaming Commission enforcement agents and other trained personnel. The KRGC expects interviews to take between 30-45 minutes.

“We want to make this process as easy as possible while at the same time recognize the need for confidentiality,” Martino said. “We stand ready to answer any questions and to assist those who think they might have a gambling problem.”

###