

205 CMR 133.00: VOLUNTARY SELF-EXCLUSION

Section

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133.01: Scope and Purpose

In accordance with M.G.L. c. 23K, § 45(f), the commission shall establish a list of self-excluded persons from gaming establishments. 205 CMR 133.00 shall govern the procedures and protocols relative to the list of persons self-excluded from entering the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed. The voluntary self-exclusion list shall consist of names and information relative to those individuals who have complied with the requirement of 205 CMR 133.00 and have been placed on the list by the commission. Placement of one's name on the voluntary self-exclusion list is intended to offer individuals one means to help address problem gambling behavior or deter an individual with family, religious, or other personal concerns from entering the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed.

For purposes of 205 CMR 133.00, the term 'problem gambler' shall mean an individual who believes their gambling behavior is currently, or may in the future without intervention, cause harm in their life or on the lives of their family, friends, and/or co-workers.

133.02: Placement on the Self-exclusion List

(1) An individual whose name is placed on the voluntary self-exclusion list shall be prohibited from entering the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed for the duration of the exclusion period, and shall not collect any winnings or recover any losses resulting from any gaming activity at a gaming establishment. Provided, however, that an employee of a gaming licensee or vendor who is licensed or registered as a key gaming employee, gaming employee, or gaming service employee in accordance with 205 CMR 134.00: *Licensing and Registration of Employees, Vendors, Junket Enterprises and Representatives, and Labor Organizations* and who is on the voluntary self-exclusion list may be in the gaming area of a gaming establishment or an area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed solely for purposes of performing their job functions.

(2) An individual may request to have their name placed on the voluntary self-exclusion list by completing the application and procedure outlined in 205 CMR 133.02. Applications shall be submitted in a format approved by the commission and shall be available on the commission's website and at designated locations on and off the premises of the gaming establishments as determined by the commission.

(3) An application for placement on the voluntary self-exclusion list may only be accepted, and an intake performed, by an available designated agent. An individual may only become a designated agent by successfully completing a course of training approved and administered by the commission or its designee. The course of training shall include, at a minimum, instruction on completion of the application, instruction on maintaining confidentiality of personal protected information, information relative to problem gambling and resources, and an understanding of 205 CMR 133.00. A designated agent is any individual authorized by the commission for the purpose of administering the voluntary self-exclusion program including, but not limited to, a GameSense advisor; a health or mental health professional; or an employee of a gaming licensee, the commission, or other government entity. The commission may refuse to offer training to any individual whose service as a designated agent it determines would be contrary to the aims of 205 CMR 133.00.

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- (4) Upon submission of an application, a designated agent shall review with the applicant the contents and statements contained in the application, as provided by 205 CMR 133.03. If the application is complete, the designated agent shall sign the application indicating that the review has been performed and the application has been accepted.
- (5) A designated agent may not sign an application if
 - (a) any required information is not provided; or
 - (b) they are of the belief that the applicant is not capable of understanding the responsibilities and consequences of being placed on the self-exclusion list.
- (6) Designated agents completing an electronic form of the approved application shall deliver electronically the signed application for voluntary self-exclusion to the commission immediately upon completion. Designated agents completing a paper form of the approved application shall forward the signed application for voluntary self-exclusion to the commission within 48 hours of completion in a manner directed by the commission.
- (7) Upon receipt of an application, the commission, or its designee, shall review it for completeness. If the application meets all requirements of 205 CMR 133.02 the application shall be approved and the individual's name shall be added to the voluntary self-exclusion list. If the application is incomplete, the commission, or its designee, may deny the application and make efforts to contact the applicant advising them of such.
- (8) If the gaming licensee utilizes an internal management system to track individuals on the self-exclusion list, they shall update that system at least every 72 hours with names of individuals being added or removed from the self-exclusion list.
- (9) The commission, or its designee, shall add to the list of voluntarily self-excluded persons the name of any individual provided from a gaming jurisdiction outside of Massachusetts, with which the commission has entered into an interstate compact, upon a determination that the individual voluntarily requested that their name be added to the list of the referring jurisdiction and that they were notified, either directly or by operation of law, that their name may be placed on similar lists in other jurisdictions.
- (10) If the applicant has elected the services identified in 205 CMR 133.03(8), the commission, or its designee shall contact the designated coordinating organization for the provision of requested services.

133.03: Contents of the Application

The application for voluntary self-exclusion shall require provision of, at a minimum, the following content:

- (1) Name, home address, email address or telephone number, date of birth, and last four digits of social security number of the applicant;
- (2) A passport style photo of the applicant without headwear, unless worn daily for religious purposes and provided that the applicant's facial features are not obscured;
- (3) A statement from the applicant that one or more of the following apply:
 - (a) they identify as a problem gambler as defined in 205 CMR 133.01;
 - (b) they feel that their gambling behavior is currently causing problems in their life or may, without intervention, cause problems in their life; or
 - (c) there is some other reason why they wish to add their name to the list.
- (4) An election of the duration of the exclusion in accordance with 205 CMR 133.04;

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- (5) An acknowledgment by the applicant that the individual will not enter the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed for the duration of the exclusion period (except as provided by 205 CMR 133.02(1)) and that it is their sole responsibility to refrain from doing so;
- (6) An acknowledgment by the applicant that they shall not collect any winnings or recover any losses resulting from any gaming activity at a gaming establishment for the duration of the exclusion period;
- (7) An acknowledgment by the applicant that they will forfeit all rewards or points earned through a player reward card program;
- (8) An offer by the commission or the designated agent completing the self-exclusion application to assist the applicant to access information about gambling disorders, self-guided help, peer-support, or counseling services with a clinician approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health or otherwise licensed or certified through a process or program recognized by the commission;
- (9) An acknowledgment of understanding by the applicant that by placing their name on the voluntary self-exclusion list the prohibitions identified in 205 CMR 133.02(1) apply to all gaming establishments licensed by the commission in Massachusetts, any affiliates of the gaming licensee, whether within Massachusetts or another jurisdiction, and that the commission may share the list with other domestic or international gaming jurisdictions resulting in placement on those lists and may share such portion of the list with designated agents as may be necessary for the purpose of administering the voluntary self-exclusion program;
- (10) An acknowledgment by the applicant that they are submitting the application freely, knowingly, and voluntarily;
- (11) A statement that the individual is not under the influence of a substance or suffering from a health or mental health condition that would impair their ability to make an informed decision;
- (12) An acknowledgment by the applicant that if they violate their agreement to refrain from entering a gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed during the exclusion period, the applicant shall notify the commission of such violation within 24 hours of their presence within the gaming area of the gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed;
- (13) An agreement releasing the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the commission, the licensee, and all affiliated employees from any claims associated with the applicant's breach of the agreement; and
- (14) An acknowledgment by the applicant that once their name is placed on the self-exclusion list they may be refused entry and/or ejected from the gaming area of a gaming establishment by the gaming licensee, an agent of the commission, or law enforcement personnel

133.04: Duration of Exclusion and Removal from the List

- (1) As part of the request for voluntary self-exclusion, the individual must select the duration for which they wish to be voluntarily excluded. An individual may select any of the following time periods as a minimum length of exclusion:
 - (a) One year;
 - (b) Three years;
 - (c) Five years; or
 - (d) Lifetime. (An individual may only select the lifetime duration if their name has previously appeared on the voluntary self-exclusion list for at least six months.)
- (2) An individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list may not apply to decrease the duration of exclusion. An individual who is on the list may submit a request to increase the minimum length of exclusion.

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(3) Upon expiration of the selected duration of exclusion, individuals may request that their name be removed from the list or petition for exclusion for a new duration. Individuals shall remain on the list after the expiration of the selected duration of exclusion until such time as they submit a petition for removal in accordance with 205 CMR 133.04(4) and it is approved by the commission or its designee.

(4) At any time after the expiration of the selected duration of exclusion, an individual may request that their name be removed from the voluntary self-exclusion list by submitting a petition for removal to the commission or a designated agent. The petition shall include confirmation from a designated agent that the individual completed a reinstatement session in accordance with 205 CMR 133.04(5). Any petition for removal received by the commission or a designated agent prior to the expiration of the duration of the selected exclusion period shall be denied.

The commission shall approve a completed petition for removal. An individual who has selected a lifetime duration in accordance with 205 CMR 133.04(1)(d) may not submit a petition for removal of their name from the list. An incomplete application, including one that fails to demonstrate completion of a reinstatement session in accordance with 205 CMR 133.04(5), shall be denied until such time as the application is completed.

(5) To be eligible for removal from the voluntary self-exclusion list, the petitioner shall participate in a reinstatement session with a designated agent. The reinstatement session shall include a review of the risks and responsibilities of gambling, budget setting and a review of problem gambling resources should the petitioner wish to seek them. Upon completion of the reinstatement session, the designated agent shall sign the individual's petition for removal from the list attesting to the fact that the reinstatement session was conducted. The designated agent shall submit an electronic verification to the commission that the petitioner has completed a reinstatement session.

(6) Upon approval of a petition for removal from the voluntary self-exclusion list, a written notice of removal from the list shall be forwarded by the commission, or its designee, to each gaming licensee. The petitioner shall be deemed to be removed from the voluntary self-exclusion list immediately upon completion of the reinstatement session, at which point the petitioner shall be given a receipt verifying said completion and confirming their removal from the voluntary self-exclusion list. A petitioner may be asked to present said receipt while gaming for seven days following their reinstatement. Failure to do so may result in administrative difficulties in confirming voluntary self-exclusion status during that time-period.

(7) If a petitioner does not meet the eligibility requirements for removal from the list provided in 205 CMR 133.04(4), the petition shall be denied. The petitioner shall be notified of the denial by email or first class mail to the email address or home address provided by the petitioner in the petition. In the event of a denial of a petition, the individual shall remain on the voluntary self-exclusion list until such time as the eligibility requirements have been satisfied.

(8) An individual whose name has been removed from the voluntary self-exclusion list may reapply for placement on the list at any time by submitting an application in accordance with 205 CMR 133.02.

(9) An individual whose name was added to the voluntary self-exclusion list in Massachusetts in accordance with 205 CMR 133.02(9) shall be removed from the list notwithstanding 205 CMR 133.04(4) through (6) upon receipt of written notice from the referring jurisdiction that the individual's name has been removed from that jurisdiction's list.

133.05 Maintenance and Custody of the List

(1) The commission shall maintain an up-to-date database of the voluntary self-exclusion list. Gaming licensees shall be afforded a minimum of five licenses to access the voluntary self-exclusion list. Persons afforded a license are authorized by the commission to access the voluntary self-exclusion list for the purpose of administering the voluntary self-exclusion program. All information contained in approved applications for voluntary exclusion may be disclosed to a gaming licensee.

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(2) The list of voluntary self-exclusion is exempt from disclosure under M.G.L. c. 66 and shall not be publicly disclosed by a gaming licensee. However, a gaming licensee may share the list with its affiliates in other jurisdictions for the purpose of assisting in the proper administration of responsible gaming programs operated by affiliated gaming establishments. Additionally, a gaming licensee shall include the names and contact information of individuals on the voluntary self-exclusion list in its aggregated no marketing list to be shared with junket enterprises and junket representatives in accordance with 205 CMR 134.06(5)(b) for the purpose of effectuating the intent of the voluntary self-exclusion program. Such disclosure shall not be a violation of M.G.L. c. 23K, § 45.

(3) The commission may disclose de-identified information from the voluntary self-exclusion list to one or more research entities selected by the commission for the purpose of evaluating the effectiveness and ensuring the proper administration of the self-exclusion process.

133.06: Responsibilities of the Gaming Licensees

A gaming licensee shall have the following responsibilities relative to the administration of the voluntary self-exclusion list:

(1) A gaming licensee shall eject from or refuse entry into the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed any individual whose name appears on the voluntary self-exclusion list;

(2) A gaming licensee shall promptly notify the commission, or its designee, if an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list is found in the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed;

(3) A gaming licensee shall not market to individuals on the voluntary self-exclusion list;

(4) A gaming licensee shall deny access to complimentary services or items, check cashing privileges, player reward programs, and other similar benefits to persons on the voluntary self-exclusion list;

(5) Individuals on the voluntary self-exclusion list shall not be permitted to participate in a cashless wagering system. A gaming licensee shall take steps to ensure that it denies entry into and terminates all access and privileges associated with its cashless wagering program to individuals on the voluntary self-exclusion list;

(6) A gaming licensee shall not extend credit to an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list;

(7) (a) A gaming licensee shall not pay any winnings derived from gaming to an individual who is prohibited from gaming in a gaming establishment by virtue of having placed their name on the voluntary self-exclusion list in accordance with 205 CMR 133.00. Winnings derived from gaming shall include, but not be limited to, such things as proceeds derived from play on a slot machine/electronic gaming device and a wager, or series of wagers, placed at a table game. Where reasonably possible, the gaming licensee shall confiscate from the individual in a lawful manner, or shall notify a commission agent who shall confiscate, or shall refuse to pay any such winnings derived from gaming or any money or thing of value that the individual has converted or attempted to convert into a wagering instrument whether actually wagered or not. A wagering instrument shall include, but not be limited to, chips, tokens, prizes, non-complimentary pay vouchers, electronic credits on a slot machine/electronic gaming device, and vouchers representing electronic credits/ticket-in, ticket-out (TITO) slips. The monetary value of the confiscated winnings and/or wagering instrument shall be paid to the commission for deposit into the Gaming Revenue Fund within 45 days;

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(b) If an individual wishes to contest the forfeiture of winnings or things of value, the individual may request a hearing in writing by submitting a request to the commission within 15 days of the date of the forfeiture. The request shall identify the reason why the winnings or things of value should not be forfeited. A hearing shall be conducted in accordance with 205 CMR 101.00: *M.G.L. c. 23K Adjudicatory Proceedings* to determine whether the subject funds were properly forfeited in accordance with 205 CMR 133.06(7)(a); and

(8) In cooperation with the commission, and where reasonably possible, the gaming licensee shall determine the amount wagered and lost by an individual who is prohibited from gaming. The monetary value of the losses shall be paid to the commission for deposit into the Gaming Revenue Fund within 45 days.

(9) A gaming licensee shall submit a written policy for compliance with the voluntary self-exclusion program for commission approval at least 60 days before the gaming establishment opening. The commission shall review the plan for compliance with 205 CMR 133.00. If approved, the plan shall be implemented and followed by the gaming licensee. The plan for compliance with the voluntary self-exclusion program shall include, at a minimum, procedures to:

- (a) Prevent employees from permitting an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list from engaging in gambling activities at the gaming establishment;
- (b) Identify and remove self-excluded individuals from the gaming area of a gaming establishment or any area in which pari-mutuel or simulcasting wagers are placed;
- (c) Remove individuals on the voluntary self-exclusion list from marketing lists and refrain from sending or transmitting to them any advertisement, promotion, or other direct marketing mailing from the gaming establishment more than 30 days after receiving notice from commission that the individual has been placed on the voluntary self-exclusion list;
- (d) Prevent an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list from having access to credit, cashless wagering, or complimentary services, check-cashing services, junket participation, and other benefits from the gaming establishment;
- (e) Ensure the confidentiality of the identity and personal information of the voluntarily self-excluded individual;
- (f) Train employees relative to the voluntary self-exclusion program to be provided in conjunction with its problem gambling training program.

(10) A gaming licensee shall notify the commission within ten days if an employee or agent fails to exclude or eject from its premises any individual on the list of self-excluded persons, or otherwise fails to perform a responsibility of the gaming establishment identified in 205 CMR 133.06, including any provision of its approved written policy for compliance with the voluntary self-exclusion program.

133.07: Sanctions against a Gaming Licensee

(1) Grounds for Action. A gaming license may be conditioned, suspended, or revoked, and/or the gaming licensee assessed a civil administrative penalty if it is determined that a gaming licensee has:

- (a) knowingly or recklessly failed to exclude or eject from its premises any individual placed on the voluntary self-exclusion list. Provided, it shall not be deemed a knowing or reckless failure if an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list shielded their identity or otherwise attempted to avoid identification while present at a gaming establishment; or
- (b) failed to abide by any provision of 205 CMR 133.00, M.G.L. c. 23K, § 45, the gaming licensee's approved written policy for compliance with the voluntary self-exclusion program pursuant to 205 CMR 133.06(9), or any law related to the voluntary self-exclusion of patrons in a gaming establishment. Provided, a gaming licensee shall be deemed to have marketed to an individual on the voluntary self-exclusion list only if marketing materials are sent directly to an address, email address, telephone number, or other contact identified by the individual on their application.

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(2) Finding and Decision. If the bureau finds that a gaming licensee has violated a provision of 205 CMR 133.07(1), it may issue a written notice of decision recommending that the commission suspend, revoke, and or condition said gaming licensee. Either in conjunction with or in *lieu* of such a recommendation, the bureau may issue a written notice assessing a civil administrative penalty upon said licensee. Such notices shall be provided in writing and contain a factual basis and the reasoning in support of the decision, including citation to the applicable statute(s) or regulation(s).

(3) Civil Administrative Penalties. The bureau may assess a civil administrative penalty on a gaming licensee in accordance with M.G.L. c. 23K, § 36 for a violation of 205 CMR 133.07(1).

(4) Review of Decision. A recommendation made by the bureau to the commission that a gaming license be suspended or revoked shall proceed directly to the commission for review in accordance with 205 CMR 101.01: *Hearings before the Commission*. If the gaming licensee is aggrieved by a decision made by the bureau in accordance with 205 CMR 133.07(2) and (3), it may request review of said decision in accordance with 205 CMR 101.00: *M.G.L. c. 23K Adjudicatory Proceedings*.

133.08: Collection of Debts

(1) An individual who is prohibited from gaming in a gaming establishment under 205 CMR 133.00 shall not be entitled to recover losses as a result of prohibited gaming based solely on their inclusion on the list.

(2) Nothing in 205 CMR 133.00 shall be construed so as to prohibit a gaming licensee from seeking payment of a debt from an individual whose name is on the voluntary self-exclusion list if the debt was accrued by the individual before their name was placed on the list.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

205 CMR 133.00: M.G.L. c. 23K, § 45(f).