STATE OF MAINE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milton Champion, Executive Director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety, is issuing this alert to residents and visitors to the State of Maine regarding illegal interactive gaming ("iGaming") websites and applications that may be currently operating in the State.

Despite the legality of online advance deposit wagering, fantasy contests and sports wagering, online casino games like slots, blackjack, and roulette for real money remain strictly prohibited in the State. Numerous unregulated entities continue to target Maine residents, offering illicit iGaming opportunities. These operations, based out of state and often out of the country, include sites that may appear legitimate but lack any regulatory oversight in Maine. Examples of such unlicensed platforms may include, but are not limited to, certain "sweepstakes" or "social casino" sites that offer real-money payouts, coin-titled substitutes, dual-currency systems, material prizes or gift cards.

The Gambling Control Unit wants to make it very clear: no online casino, iGaming, or sweepstakes site is licensed by the Gambling Control Unit. We strongly encourage everyone to avoid these websites; however, patrons who choose to engage with these unlicensed platforms do so at their own risk. The Gambling Control Unit cannot provide assistance or intervention in cases of disputes regarding winnings or other account issues arising from participation in illegal iGaming.

The Gambling Control Unit's primary responsibility is to protect the integrity of gaming in Maine. Licensed online fantasy contests, advance deposit wagering and sports wagering operators undergo rigorous scrutiny and adhere to strict regulations designed to protect consumers and ensure fair play. Information regarding legitimate, licensed online operators, and all other licensed forms of legal gaming in Maine can be found on our website at Maine Gambling Control Unit | Department of Public Safety.

We urge anyone with questions about the legality of a particular online gambling site or service to review our website or contact our office directly.

The Gambling Control Unit also recognizes that gambling can become a serious problem for some individuals. If you or someone you know is struggling with gambling, please know that help is available. Resources for responsible gaming and problem gambling support can be found on the Gambling Control Unit website, including links to the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention website or by calling 211 or the National Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800 GAMBLER.