



VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

Problem Gambling (Peter Byrne) Video

Speaker – Peter Byrne

[We started to have a lot more fights about money, and we hardly ever had fights previously. She was more standoffish, didn't want to be near me, didn't want to talk, which made it rather unpleasant and I suppose that was what she was trying to do. She didn't want to talk about the money and we discussed it and eventually she came and told me that she had a problem with the poker machines. And my simple solution was, well, just don't go but of course, it's not that simple. I mean, the money is important.

But that wasn't the biggest issue because it was our relationship and who she became when she was gambling, destroyed our relationship. She was just changing as a person, she wasn't the person I met and fell in love with and married. I was very close to going for, getting a divorce. Because it's not only the person with the addiction, who has the problem, it was me, it was our kids was our local hairdresser. It was the small businesses that Gabby normally would have gone to delicatessen where we used to spend a lot of money instead of spending money there on some German sausages or whatever it would go into the machines instead of having a nice haircut, it would go into the machines.

I think once the problem had been recognised, and that I'd understood it was more serious and I thought the fact that we're able to talk about it then and together to work on it. And I could see that there was some progress being made and I found that as long as there was, you know, two or three steps forward and then occasionally one step back that I could live with that.

Other people did help us but it was mainly, well, mainly Gabby's efforts, and I just assisted where I could, as far as helping her to make the jump and to make the change and it was a slow process it didn't happen overnight. I'm extremely proud of what she's been able to achieve and it hasn't always been easy, and it's been a long journey, but it's not over yet. There's so many people affected by one person's addiction and that's what we're trying to reduce and trying to help as much as we can.]