

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: MGCB-Media@michigan.gov



Michigan Gaming Control Board continues relentless crackdown on unlicensed online casinos with cease-and-desist orders

DETROIT, March 5, 2025 — The Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB) has taken decisive action against five offshore online casinos, sending cease-and-desist letters for violating state gaming laws. These websites offer a variety of casino games, such as slots, poker, blackjack, Keno, bingo, and game show games, in addition to sports betting.

The following unlicensed operators are now under scrutiny following the MGCB's action:

- **BetWhale Casino**, Curaçao
- **Black Lotus Casino**, owned by TD Investments Ltd., Belize
- **Coins Game Casino**, Curaçao
- **Love2play Casino**, Curaçao and Costa Rica
- **Orion Stars 777 Players**, Sichuan Province, China

“These illegal platforms not only violate Michigan’s gaming regulations but also put consumers at risk by offering unreliable withdrawal options and lacking essential consumer protections,” stated **MGCB Executive Director Henry Williams**. “Our top priority is safeguarding Michigan residents by ensuring that all online gaming activities are conducted legally and safely. These operators must stop their activities or face additional legal consequences.”

Legal Violations and Potential Consequences

Investigations into these illegal activities have revealed that the operators are in violation of multiple Michigan state laws, including:

- **Lawful Internet Gaming Act:** Only licensed casinos can legally offer online gambling in Michigan. Operators who fail to meet licensing requirements are in breach of the law.
- **Michigan Gaming Control and Revenue Act:** Operating an unlicensed gambling service is a felony, punishable by up to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$100,000, or both.
- **Michigan Penal Code:** Gambling that involves consideration, prize, and chance is broadly prohibited under Michigan law. Accepting payments for gambling services tied to uncertain outcomes is illegal.

Despite offering various payment options like Visa, MasterCard, PayPal, and cryptocurrencies (e.g., Bitcoin and Ethereum), these illegal operators impose strict withdrawal conditions, often requiring players to wager their initial deposits multiple times before they can access their winnings.

MGCB's Ongoing Commitment to Consumer Safety

The MGCB has given these operators 14 days from the date of receipt of the cease-and-desist letters to halt their illegal activities. If they do not comply, the MGCB will work closely with the Michigan Attorney General's Office to pursue further legal action.

Michigan residents are urged to exercise caution when engaging in online gaming. To confirm whether an online casino is licensed, players can visit the official MGCB website at Michigan.gov/MGCB, which features a [list of authorized internet gaming providers](#). Additionally, individuals who suspect illegal gambling activity are encouraged to report it to the MGCB via its confidential hotline at 1-888-314-2682 or by emailing MIGamblingTip@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Gaming Control Board remains committed to protecting the well-being of Michigan residents and ensuring that all online gaming activities are safe, fair, and regulated.

*Gambling in any form is for entertainment purposes only. If you or someone you know may have a gambling problem, contact the National Problem Gambling Helpline at **1-800-GAMBLER**, text 800GAM, or visit www.1800gamblerchat.org. Help is available 24/7 and is free and confidential. Michigan citizens can also visit the [Responsible Gaming page of the MGCB website](#) for information on self-exclusion programs including the Disassociated Persons List and the Internet Gaming and Sports Betting Responsible Gaming Database, and DontRegretTheBet.org for additional tools to game responsibly.*

The Michigan Gaming Control Board shall ensure the conduct of fair and honest gaming to protect the interests of the citizens of the state of Michigan. Learn more at Michigan.gov/MGCB.