

Case Study 9

Gambling - Theft

Name: Ricki

Age: 17

Employment: Apprentice/Unemployed

Date: Monday 14th April

Ricki left school last year. He gained 7 GCSE's and then secured an apprenticeship in catering at a local restaurant. The Head Chef, Ali, liked to gamble on the horses and he would send Ricki to the local betting shop to place bets. The manager of the shop knew that Ricki was underage but she turned a blind eye..

The first time Ricki went into the betting shop he saw adults shouting at televised racing, urging their horses on. There was televised dog racing and football betting. It seemed exciting. It was the horse racing that Ali was interested in. Ricki would place bets for him every day and then collect the winnings. Ricki placed more bets than he collected winnings. In fact, he worked out that Ali was losing about £100 a week.

One day Ricki went to place a bet and decided to spend £10 on a roulette machine. Most Bookmakers have gambling machines installed. The flashing lights and the lure of big payouts can be quite tempting. However, the bookmakers run a business and they are not in the habit of giving money away.

On this particular day Ricki was in luck. He won £180, which was more money than he earned in a week. It wasn't long before Ricki played the machines each time he went to place a bet for Ali. He started to go in after work and at lunchtimes.

Ricki had £700 savings in the bank. He withdrew the lot and spent it over a two week period. He won some, lost some, won some and lost some more, eventually losing all his money. He then started borrowing money from his friends and family until he had to avoid them because he couldn't pay it back.

One Monday morning Ricki was asked to take the weekend's takings from the restaurant to the bank. He had to pass the betting shop on the way to the bank and decided to pop in for a £10 bet on the machines. He lost the £10 and started to play the machine with some of the restaurant's money.

The restaurant manager became worried because Ricki had been gone a while. The Head Chef said that he would walk to the bank and look for him. He had an idea that Ricki would be in the betting shop. He was shocked when he arrived. Ricki had spent £200 of the takings. Ricki burst into tears as the Chef screamed at him.

Ricki lost his apprenticeship and was charged with theft. The betting shop manager was warned for allowing underage gambling.