

I don't really know where to start, but I will try with where the downward spiral began...

*I lost my wallet while on vacation, while extremely intoxicated I used money from the PCard. My rational was that when I found my wallet, I could just use my personal money for the expenses we had coming up. I located my wallet towards the end of the trip, and drained my account after being up nearly 24 hours of drinking. I returned home very sick, and was certain I would be fired that week. I deposited half of the money, and never heard a word from anyone. This totaled a little over \$3,000.00 of funds that were not mine, and around \$5,000.00 of my own money.

*Over the next several weeks, I would find myself in some very bad situations due to dangerous levels of drinking. My drinking increased, and my behavior worsened. I repeatedly tried to "fix" the situation, and only made it worse. I cannot rationalize this behavior, because looking back, it's put me on the ground. I tried to put on a face everyday, and the truth is the only way I could escape the reality of my mistakes was to drink more, party more, and run.

*The changes in our business office, and the much higher volume of activity on my card led to this go unnoticed. I began to "rob Peter to pay Paul", by paying cash for things that we needed as often as possible. I never once turned in a receipt that was not true, but I knew that eventually the question would be asked why I was using cash to pay for things instead of credit.

*3 months of waking up hungover everyday, and compounding my mistakes eventually took it's toll. I was on edge more than ever, and scared. I went home the weekend prior to our retreat & vowed to never walk on a casino floor again. I havn't. I walked thru on Halloween, and almost vomited. Though I was able to willingly stop this part of the behavior, I could not quit trying to escape the reality with my drinking. I knew what was coming, but did not have the courage or the will power to face it.

*Last week, with the help of a couple close friends outside of this business, I started the process of getting help. I went in to this not knowing what would come of it, and how far I had truly fallen. I don't know if this is/was rock bottom, but it is as close as I have ever been. I know I am in trouble, and I now know I cannot fix this on my own. I have never been one to ask for help, mainly because I could figure out ways to help myself. This, I cannot do on my own. I feared the position I would put you, or any of our staff in, should I have come to you before now. In reality, I've only made it worse for all of you & myself.

*Above all else, I cannot begin to tell you the amount of fear, shame, and regret I have knowing that I have broken your trust, and your families' love for my well being. I have been in much smaller situations in the past, where my addictive behavior has put me at risk, and disappointed those that care about me. This is different. You have truly done everything in your power to give me an opportunity, and I was not able to handle that trust. I am incredibly sorry. I know that I can/will have the financial side of this reconciled, however that pales in comparison to what I've really done.