

GOSHEN COUNTY, WYOMING
GOSHEN COUNTY AND PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
PRESS RELEASE

August 30, 2019

**PRESS RELEASE
AND
REQUEST FOR INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT GAMBLING DEVICES**

On December 11, 2018, then-Wyoming Attorney General Peter K. Michael issued a formal opinion on the legality of the “Wyoming Skill Games,” which are electronic terminals, similar in appearance to traditional “slot machines” that have become increasingly common in businesses and other venues throughout Wyoming.

“Because gambling in Wyoming is a crime, not a civil violation, local law enforcement officials and prosecutors will need to determine the timing of the appropriate next steps if their communities have these machines,” said Attorney General Michael. (Emphasis added).

For the above-described reasons, the office of the Goshen County Attorney in consultation with the Goshen County Sheriff and the Chief of Police of the City of Torrington request input from the public about potential illegal gambling devices, in general involving those devices which neither require a bona fide “contest of skill” between human players nor provide for full pay-out of all proceeds to the players.

The Attorney General’s opinion does not address the lawfulness of the “historic horse racing” terminals at certain pari-mutuel off-track betting locations in Wyoming. These terminals are permitted under separate Wyoming statutes. Similarly, the Attorney General’s opinion does not affect tribal gaming operations conducted on the Wind River Indian Reservation by the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho tribes.

The Wyoming Supreme Court has admonished, and we agree, that the law is not required to be blind to the ceaseless efforts and ingenuity of those arguably involved in ongoing attempts to circumvent gambling laws.

Current Wyoming Attorney General Bridget Hill concurs with previous Attorney General Michael’s opinion, and agrees that local authorities should work to ensure that machines operating within their respective jurisdictions comply with Wyoming’s gambling laws.

Any interested party is encouraged to call the Office of the Goshen County Attorney, at 532-4223, to provide input about arguably illegal gambling devices.