

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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July 15, 2004

PR# 04-36

**ABC INVESTIGATORS TEAM WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO
ARREST 4 SUSPECTS FOR FURNISHING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), the Kern County Sheriff's Department, and the Bakersfield Police Department, arrested 4 suspects on 7-14-04 in the City of Bakersfield for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a program called a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation which targets adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a liquor or convenience store and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults comply, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

For more information on the operation, contact the ABC district administrator or district supervisor at 395-2731.