

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**ABC AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES CITE CLERKS  
FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

**Lakewood** – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited six adults Saturday, November 20, for selling alcohol to minors in a four-city alcohol law enforcement operation. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the sheriff's deputies and ABC investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the Cities of Bellflower, Artesia, Lakewood and Hawaiian Gardens.

Minor decoys attempted to purchase alcohol at 108 different locations and were able to make purchases at six of them. "This is a high compliance rate," said ABC Director Jerry Jolly, "there is still room for improvement but this operation is an example of how local law enforcement and the ABC working together can reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. The hard work and training is paying dividends for the five communities served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff Lakewood Division."

On Thursday, November 18, sheriff's deputies ran a similar operation in Paramount. In that operation, decoys attempted to buy at 22 locations and were able to purchase alcohol at six of them. Those who sold to minors face a possible fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. Those actions can include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license. Minor decoys were able to purchase alcohol from the following locations:

Market Tobacco Liquor  
5453 South Street  
Lakewood

Carson/Pioneer Liquor Mart  
11801 Carson Street  
Hawaiian Gardens

99 Cents Store  
12123-12125 Carson Street  
Hawaiian Gardens

99 Cents Store  
14317 Clark Avenue  
Bellflower

Thompson Market  
14225 Bellflower Boulevard  
Bellflower

Liquor Store  
17811 Lakewood Boulevard  
Bellflower

Under the Minor Decoy operation, the minor must be under the age of 20, must have the appearance of a minor, cannot wear clothes or jewelry that would make them look older, and must answer truthfully if asked their age.

These compliance checks are taking place in cities throughout the state in order to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 24 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

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

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.