

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

**ONTARIO** - Investigators from the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested three suspects November 31, 2004 in the City of Ontario for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors.

ABC Investigators 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 \$250 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics show they generally have a higher rate of drunk driving crashes than adults. Studies also show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior and teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

For more information on the operation, contact the ABC district administrator or district supervisor at 1-951-782-4403.

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