

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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SHASTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES AND ABC CHECK 20 BUSINESSES AND ALL COMPLY WITH THE LAW

Redding (Shasta County) – Shasta County Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) conducted a minor decoy operation in Southern Shasta County and the City of Anderson on January 21 where a minor under the direct supervision of law officers, attempted to purchase alcohol from 20 retail licensees. None of the locations sold alcoholic beverages to the minor.

“It is encouraging to run a law enforcement operation where every business complied with the law,” said ABC Director Jerry Jolly. “We must continue to be vigilant so we can keep alcohol away from youth and prevent alcohol-related car crashes. Businesses that sell alcohol play a huge role in that effort.”

Those who sell alcoholic beverages to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation.

“It appears through education, continuing enforcement and the continued support from the State of California, employees of these businesses are taking the time to be responsible when selling alcohol,” said Shasta County Sheriff Jim Pope.

ABC is working closely with local law enforcement and will continue conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. 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.