

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC CITES CLERKS FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS**CITIES OF MONTEREY PARK; ROSEMEAD and SOUTH EL MONTE –**

Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) El Monte District Office cited two (2) clerks for selling alcohol to minors. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation Wednesday, March 23, 2005 in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the Cities of Monterey Park; Rosemead and South El Monte, California.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250.00 and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business' liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The minor decoys purchased alcohol from two out of a total of thirteen locations that they visited.

ABC is 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 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 has fallen below 20 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.