

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **ABC Cites Clerk for Selling Alcohol To Minors**

**(Hermosa Beach )** - Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), Inglewood District Office, have cited a clerk for selling alcohol to minors on November 27, 2006. The action was the result of a minor decoy operation in which minors under the direct supervision of department investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 13 retail licensees in the City of Hermosa Beach.

The individual who sold to the minor faces a minimum 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 alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that 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 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.