

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr
ABC Public Information Office (916) 419-2525

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ABC Arrests Highland Man for Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor *Arrest is Result of ABC TRACE Investigation*

Highland – ABC Investigators assigned to the Department's TRACE Unit have arrested a 52 year old Highland man who is accused of providing alcoholic beverages to a 15 year old female who was later sexually assaulted. The assault occurred when she fell unconscious from an alcohol overdose. TRACE means Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies.

Joseph Eugene Foster of Highland was identified on a video surveillance system at the liquor store where a bottle of vodka was bought with money given to Foster by several juveniles, including the girl. The juveniles, who live in the area, approached Foster and asked him to buy alcohol for them. ABC calls this a shoulder tap, which is when under age persons approach an adult store customer to buy alcoholic beverages for them. It is illegal to furnish alcoholic beverages to minors.

ABC Investigator Eric Burlingame of the Riverside District Office was the case agent. Through a series of interviews and examination of evidence, Investigator Burlingame determined that Foster had furnished the bottle of vodka to the juveniles who approached him outside a Palm Avenue liquor store. The 15 year old girl later became unconscious after consuming alcohol and was allegedly sexually assaulted by another juvenile in her group.

Foster faces charges of furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors and contributing to the delinquency of a minor, both misdemeanors. He was arrested Saturday morning in Highland after the San Bernardino County District Attorney issued a warrant for his arrest.

Investigator Burlingame was assisted by TRACE Unit Supervising Investigator Jerry Ackley and Officers from the Highland Police Department. The TRACE Unit is a specialized team of ABC Investigators who conduct investigations throughout California which involve minors, alcohol and serious injuries or fatalities.

The TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors.

For more information contact Jerry Ackley in ABC's Southern Division Office at (562) 467-8400.