

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Checks 22 Businesses and One Sells Alcohol to a Minor

Paso Robles - Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited a waitress for selling alcohol to a minor during a July 27, 2007 enforcement operation. The action was the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 22 retail licensees in the City of Paso Robles and at The California Mid-State Fair in Paso Robles.

The person 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 business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

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

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.

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 Agency Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.