

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Visits 13 Stores and Cites Three Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors

Guadalupe - Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and officers of the Guadalupe Police Department have cited 3 clerks for selling alcohol to a minor. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 13 separate retail licensees in the City of Guadalupe.

Those who sold to a minor face 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 Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.