

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Visits 24 West Sacramento Locations During Decoy Operation
11 Locations Allow the Sale of Alcohol to a Minor

West Sacramento - Investigators of the California Department Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited eleven people for selling alcohol to minors on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 and Tuesday, March 20, 2007. The actions were the result of two compliance check operations in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 24 retail licensees in the City of West Sacramento.

The clerks who sold to the minor face a maximum 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 businesses where the sales occurred. 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 operation was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. ABC is administering the grant. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.