

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Cites Bartenders for Selling Alcohol to Minors Decoy Operation was Conducted in Redding and Red Bluff

Redding & Red Bluff- Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited four bartenders for selling alcohol to minors on June 12 and 13, 2009.

The actions were the result of a minor decoy operation in which a minor under the direct supervision of department investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the cities of Redding and Red Bluff.

In Redding, one premises out of seven sold alcohol to the minor decoy. In Red Bluff, ABC Investigators and Red Bluff City Police Officers visited four locations with a minor decoy and three out of the four locations sold alcohol to the decoy.

Those who sold to the 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 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. 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 licensees are complying with the law.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.