

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC Investigators Arrest Three for Furnishing Alcohol to Minors

(SONOMA COUNTY) - The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) arrested three suspects on February 5, 2010, for furnishing alcoholic beverages to minors. The arrests were made during an undercover operation near Santa Rosa.

ABC Investigators and local law enforcement conducted a Decoy Shoulder Tap Operation, which targeted adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. During the operation, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a store that sells alcohol and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way that he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol.

If the adults agree to purchase alcohol for the minor, investigators arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

The program is intended to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Studies show the combination of alcohol and youth tends to increase criminal conduct. According to the American Medical Association, underage drinking can increase chances of risky sexual behavior, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, compromise health, and result in unintentional injury and death.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration.

The 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.

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