

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **ABC Cites 21 Individuals in Petaluma for Selling Alcohol to Minors** *ABC Visits 76 locations in Week-Long Operation*

**(Petaluma, CA)** - Agents of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited 21 individuals for selling or serving alcohol to a minor between December 3 and 6, 2013. The actions were the result of a minor decoy operation in which a minor, under the direct supervision of department agents, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the City of Petaluma.

A total of 76 establishments were checked in the operation held during the evening hours Tuesday through Friday last week. A total of 49 on-sale and 27 off-sale locations were checked. 17 of the on-sale locations furnished or sold to the minor decoy and 4 of the off-sale locations sold to the decoy.

The employees were cited and released for selling/furnishing alcohol to a minor, a misdemeanor in California.

Those who did sell 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 businesses where alcohol was sold to a minor. Discipline against the licensees may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks statewide 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. 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, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.

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