

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Cites Three Businesses for Selling Alcohol to Minors

Oxnard - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have cited three clerks for selling alcohol to a minor during a February 23, 2008 enforcement operation. The action was the result of a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 14 retail licensees in the City of Oxnard.

The clerks 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 businesses where sales of alcohol to minors occurred. That may include a fine, a suspension of the alcoholic beverage 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 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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