

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Suspends License of Lewis Market in Fresno

Market sold alcohol to a minor who was later involved in a fatal crash

(Fresno) –The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today suspended the alcoholic beverage license of a Fresno market where alcohol was provided to an 18-year-old woman who was the driver in a single vehicle crash that took the life of her 14-year-old sister who was a passenger and caused serious injuries to her other passenger.

Effective immediately, the alcoholic beverage license for Lewis Market is suspended for 20 days, and the business located at 2301 East Lewis Avenue in Fresno is prohibited from selling or serving alcoholic beverages until the suspension period is over.

The suspension is the result of a Target Responsibility of Alcohol-Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation conducted by ABC. The TRACE investigation revealed that on July 21, 2017, 18-year-old Obdulia Sanchez was furnished beer by a female customer and with the knowledge of the store's employee.

Sanchez consumed the alcohol while driving with her 14-year-old sister and her sister's 15-year-old girlfriend. Sanchez was live streaming video before, during and after the crash. She was arrested after a blood test at a hospital near the crash revealed her blood alcohol content registered 0.106 about 90 minutes after the crash. Sanchez is currently serving a six-year sentence in state prison for gross vehicular manslaughter and other felony charges.

ABC Agents from the Stockton and Fresno District Offices conducted the TRACE investigation with the assistance of the California Highway Patrol.

TRACE is a program designed to determine the sources of alcohol to individuals under the age of 21 who are involved in car crashes, assaults, alcohol poisonings, overdoses or other incidents involving death or serious injuries. Funding for ABC TRACE investigations is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ABC protects communities through education and by administering prevention and enforcement programs designed to increase compliance with California's alcoholic beverage laws.

Visit https://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/programs_PE.html to learn more about ABC enforcement and prevention programs that can help increase public safety. ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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