

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Cites Clerks in Humboldt County for Selling Alcohol to Minors

(McKinleyville, Fortuna, Ferndale, CA) - Agents of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) cited 10 clerks for selling alcohol to minors on August 23-24, 2012. The actions were the result of two minor decoy operations in which minors under the direct supervision of department agents, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the cities of McKinleyville, Fortuna and Ferndale, California.

19 locations were checked in McKinleyville, 9 in Ferndale and 15 in Fortuna.

Of the locations checked, 3 locations in McKinleyville sold or furnished alcohol to the decoy, 2 in Ferndale and 5 in Fortuna. The clerks were cited and released for selling/furnishing alcohol to a minor, a misdemeanor.

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. That 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, Transportation and Housing Agency.

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