

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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## **ABC Receives Complaints of Possible Fraud** *Businesses Warned About Potential Scam*

**Sacramento** – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is warning ABC licensees and the public of a possible scam in both Northern and Southern California involving persons who claim to be a representative of ABC collecting penalty payments from ABC licensed businesses for allegedly violating laws.

According to an ABC investigation, persons recently called ABC licensed establishments in both Southern and Northern California and demanded that they pay fines for alleged violations involving the sale of alcohol to minors. In at least one case, the caller suggested that the licensee make payment via electronic transfer from a commercial outlet.

The ABC wants to make clear that these specific requests are fraudulent and the department does not handle business this way. Any imposition of fine or requirement of monetary payment can and will be substantiated through written correspondence provided directly from ABC.

If anyone receives a call or visit from a person who says they represent ABC and they do not have sufficient identification on them, they are encouraged to contact their nearest ABC office immediately. Anyone who receives this type of request is asked to obtain the person's name, contact information or a physical description and then pass the information on to ABC. You may contact ABC by visiting <http://www.abc.ca.gov/distmap.html>.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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