

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 419-2510



CONTACT: John Carr  
(916) 419-2525

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## **LIQUOR LICENSE SUSPENDED AT KERN COUNTY STORE FOLLOWING ABC & CHP CAR CRASH INVESTIGATION**

### *SEPARATE CRIMINAL CHARGES FILED AGAINST STORE CLERK FOR SALES TO MINOR*

**Wofford Heights** – California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigators today posted a 30 day suspension notice on a Kern County Liquor Store for violating the law. The license suspension of Wofford Heights Liquor Store also comes with a stayed revocation for one year meaning that if a similar violation occurs in the next year then the liquor store could lose its license. Today's suspension happened after the Kern County District Attorney's Office filed charges in Superior Court against an individual identified in a seven month long Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation conducted by (ABC).

Misdemeanor charges against 53 yr. old Darrell Edward Humphrey, the Wofford Heights Store Clerk who sold to the minor include one count of selling an alcoholic beverage to a minor. Sales to a minor is a violation of Section. 25658(a) of the Business and Professions Code.

Working with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) office in Lake Isabella, an ABC Investigator from the ABC Bakersfield District Office conducted the TRACE investigation after receiving a report from the parent of the minor who was sold the alcohol. The CHP provided an analysis of the car crash that occurred during the early evening of Aug. 28, 2004.

The crash involved a head on collision caused by a minor, Amanda Lee Williams, in which she drove head on into the path of the vehicle being driven by Brian and Cheryl Gray and their two young children. The Gray family along with Ms. Williams were rushed by ambulance to a hospital in Bakersfield. Ms. Williams suffered severe injuries while the Gray's suffered minor injuries.

The CHP officer noticed the odor of alcohol at the scene of the crash. The CHP officer dispatched to San Joaquin Hospital in Bakersfield also smelled a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage emitting from Williams. Ms. Williams was placed under arrest for 23153(a) VC (DUI causing injuries). Ms. Williams was released to Kern Medical Center where she was admitted for her injuries. The investigation revealed that Amanda Williams purchased "Fruit Pucker" an alcoholic beverage from a sales clerk at Wofford Heights Liquor. A short time later, Williams was involved in the traffic collision.

Based on the field reports from the CHP, interviews were conducted with approximately 15 witnesses including family members, parents and friends, minors, and other law enforcement agencies.

The TRACE (Targeting Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies) program is made possible by a California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, assaults that arise out of alcohol consumption by minors.