

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

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December 3, 2008  
PR 08-73

**License of Store is Suspended for 30 Days**  
*Location faces Disciplinary Action for Selling Alcohol to a Minor*

**Kerman** – Today, the California Alcoholic Beverage Control suspended the alcoholic beverage license issued to Kerman Fastrip located at 432 S. Madera Ave in Kerman. This action was the result of an investigation into an incident that occurred on February 16, 2008, in which five minors were involved in a single-vehicle collision in rural Fresno County, east of Kerman. The collision resulted in the deaths of two of the passengers, a 14 and a 19 year old.

The California Highway Patrol conducted the initial investigation involving the collision and determined that the 17 year old front passenger pulled the steering wheel of the vehicle which caused the crash. Both the 17 year old front passenger and the 17 year old driver had consumed alcohol before the crash.

ABC then initiated a TRACE (Target Responsibility for Alcohol-Connected Emergencies) investigation to determine the source of the alcohol. ABC's investigation revealed that the 17 year old driver had purchased alcohol at the Kerman Fastrip earlier that evening, then drove to a party where the driver provided some of the alcohol to the 17 year old later identified as the front passenger in the vehicle that crashed.

As a result of our investigation, the license was ordered suspended for 45 days, with an immediate 30 day suspension that began today. The license will be placed on administrative probation for one year, and if there is a subsequent violation during that time, the remaining 15 days of the suspension will be re-imposed, in addition to any subsequent penalty. If there is no violation during that time, the license will not be suspended for the remaining 15 days.

“This unfortunate tragedy reminds us how underage drinking can lead to the loss of life and other serious and life-changing consequences” said ABC's Fresno District Administrator Christine Weldon.

Funding for the TRACE program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings, and assaults that occur after alcohol consumption by minors.