

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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ABC and Atascadero Police Cite Clerks for Selling Alcohol to Minors

(Atascadero) - Investigators with the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) and Atascadero Police Department cited four clerks for selling alcohol to minors on December 14, 2011. The actions were the result of a minor decoy operation in which minors under the direct supervision of department investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from thirteen retail licensees in the City of Atascadero.

Those who sold 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 business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide 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.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).

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