



*For Immediate Release
February 24, 2025*

Menifee Police Department and ABC Runs Operations Resulting in Four Citations for Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor

Menifee, CA - The Menifee Police Department along with agents of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) have cited three clerks for selling alcohol to minors and cited one adult who purchased alcohol for minors on February 21, 2025. The actions were the result of a Minor Decoy operation and Shoulder Tap operation.

The Minor Decoy operation involves minors who work under the direct supervision of department agents. The minor decoys attempted to purchase alcohol from eight retail licensees in the City of Menifee, County of Riverside. "Providing alcohol to our youth is a crime and puts young people and the public in harm's way," said Chief Chris Karrer.

Those who sold to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC may take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business where alcohol was sold to the minor. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

In addition to the Minor Decoy operation, ABC agents also conducted a Shoulder Tap operation. A Shoulder Tap operation targets adults who purchase alcohol for underage people. A minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer stands outside a liquor or convenience store and asks patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way they are underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If an adult agrees to purchase alcohol for the minor, agents can arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to a minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

"Minor Decoy and Shoulder Tap help restrict underage access to alcohol by deterring adults from selling to them," said ABC Director Joseph McCullough. "These programs have steadily decreased the accessibility of minors to obtain alcohol from licensed premises and the general public."

Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population. About 25 percent of alcohol-related crashes involve underage drinking according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from Office of Traffic Safety through National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

About the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) is an agency of the government of the state of California charged with the regulation of alcoholic beverages. ABC's mission is to provide the highest level of service and public safety to the people of California through licensing, education, and enforcement. ABC is a department of the Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency.

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