



Youth Access to Alcohol Compliance Checks



For 13 years, Minneapolis Police Licensing has conducted Youth Alcohol Compliance (YAC) checks. The primary goal of the YAC program is to reduce the frequency of youth access to alcohol through enforcement. Through this program we identify establishments licensed by the City of Minneapolis where underage persons are able to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Most establishments are in compliance with laws, and the program has an overall success rate of 89%.

Young adults are hired to try to buy liquor. If the establishment refuses to sell to the underage shopper, the shopper leaves the business and the Police Liquor Inspector identifies him/herself to the seller and offers congratulations on passing the compliance check. A follow-up letter is also sent to the licensee in appreciation for preventing youth access to alcohol.

If the underage shoppers are successful in buying alcohol, the server or seller is told that he or she may be charged with a gross misdemeanor and will be notified by mail when charged criminally.

Police Licensing then undertakes corrective measures designed to prevent recurring illegal sales. They begin with issuance of an administrative citation and follow-up letter to the licensee offering suggestions of how illegal sales may be prevented. Police Licensing investigators also refer each case to the city attorney for issuance of a criminal complaint charging the seller with providing alcohol to a minor.

Police Licensing staff conducts re-checks within two months of the initial check. If those initial measures fail to curtail the illegal sales, more sanctions may be imposed. They may include additional civil fines; operating conditions and restrictions, such as mandatory training or use of ID scanners; license suspension; and, ultimately, revocation of the business license.

There are roughly 650 licensed alcohol establishments in Minneapolis. New liquor establishments are checked in the first six months of operation, and other businesses are checked approximately once a year. In 2009 Police Licensing conducted 560 checks and re-checks.

Questions? Give us a call: 612-673-3000 or 311

For more information in other languages: Yog xav paub tshaj nos ntxiv, hu 612-673-2800. Macluumaad dheeri ah, kala soo xiriir 612-673-3500. Para mas información llame al 612-673-2700.