



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Police Department**

**License Investigation Division**  
350 South 5th Street - Room 1A  
Minneapolis MN 55415-1314

Office 612 673-3002  
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October 10, 2002

**TO ALL LICENSED BEVERAGE ALCOHOL RETAILERS:**

During the past four years, the Minneapolis Police License Investigation Division has conducted alcohol compliance checks at over six hundred (600) licensed beverage alcohol retailers as part of the City's initiative to reduce youth access to alcohol. In 1998, 53% of the businesses checked refused to sell to underage shoppers. In 1999, your industry's compliance rate increased to 60%. In 2000, the compliance rate improved again to 76%. In 2001-2002, the rate increased to 83%. This is proof that your industry is striving to keep youth from purchasing alcohol. The improvement in compliance is consistent with the results of similar initiatives around the country. As a result of these findings, the City Council has determined the need and value of on going alcohol compliance checks.

The Minneapolis Police License Investigation Division will continue using alcohol compliance checks during the 2002- 2003 reporting years. Random checks will begin in November and will continue throughout the year. The use of re-checks will also continue and all of the businesses that have failed in the preceding twenty-four (24) months will be checked again.

The checks will be conducted in a similar manner as those conducted in previous years, using minors between eighteen (18) and nineteen (19) years of age. The underage shoppers will attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages at your establishment. They will not have fake identification and will present their own valid identification if asked for one. The minors will be instructed to respond truthfully to questions and will not be allowed to trick, deceive, or lie about their age.

As the owner or operator of a licensed establishment, you may face criminal and civil actions if you allow the sale of alcoholic beverages to a minor. These actions may include a criminal complaint and/or the imposition of a civil fine.

Upon completion of each compliance check, the MPD investigators will immediately issue the licensed establishment a copy of an Alcohol Sales Age Compliance Report. Investigators will indicate whether the business was in compliance or in violation of Chapter 340A.503 Subd. 1 of the State of Minnesota Liquor Statutes and Rules, which relates to the sale of alcohol to persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years. If the underage shopper is served, the seller will be provided a copy of the Seller's Identification and Information Sheet that states the case will be forwarded to the City Attorney for charging as a gross misdemeanor.

Please be aware that the fine schedule has changed with the new schedule listed below.

If the underage shopper is served, an administrative fine will be imposed on the licensee. Base on the history of similar violations during the preceding twenty-four (24) months, the administrative fines will be:

- First violation - An administrative fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00);
- Second violation - An administrative fine of one thousand dollars (\$1000.00);
- Third violation - An administrative fine of two thousand dollars (\$2000.00);
- Fourth violation – Refer to City Council.
- Revocation has been removed from the new matrix. Please make sure that you understand that if the offense is serious enough, the City Council has the authority to revoke your license.

The City of Minneapolis encourages your continued cooperation in preventing access to alcohol by youth. As the owner or operator of a licensed establishment, your support to this program is invaluable. You can help insure your establishment is in compliance by providing thorough and on-going server training and implementing a mandatory proof of age policy for all alcoholic beverage sales.

If you have further questions, please contact this office at 673-3002.

Sincerely,

Sgt. Kent B. Warnberg

Investigator  
License Investigation Division