

Overview of Alcohol Compliance Checks

One of the primary objectives of Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County is to reduce underage drinking by monitoring the sales of alcohol to underage individuals. Community members and alcohol retailers must be aware that sale of alcohol to persons under the age of 21 is prohibited by Wisconsin Law.



What are Compliance Checks?

- With the supervision of law enforcement officials, an undercover youth (under the age of 21) attempts to purchase alcohol at various randomly selected retail outlets.
- The under-aged individual uses their current valid ID when performing compliance checks.
- The establishments are penalized if the attempt is successful.

Why Compliance Checks?

- Reducing underage access to alcohol will reduce alcohol related problems such as: traffic crashes, falls, drownings, fights, vandalism, sexual assaults and other crimes of violence.
- Compliance checks are easy to complete once they are organized.
- Compliance checks send a message to the community that providing alcohol to underage persons is not acceptable

Types of Compliance Checks

- *Educational* - Issue warnings and provide education to the license holder.
- *Administrative* - Civil penalty imposed by a local ordinance such as a fine/demerit points on license.
- *Criminal* - statutory criminal process when circumstances or repeat offenses make the criminal process more appropriate.

**Educational* and *administrative* approaches are most common*

Compliance Check standard operating procedure:

- Immediate vs. delayed post-buy contact with sellers/servers
 - *Immediate contact* with both failures and successes
 - No sale - uniformed officer identifies seller and congratulates
 - Sale - Uniformed officer issues warning
 - Sale - Uniformed officer issues citation
 - *Delayed contact* with both failures and successes
 - No sale - Officer visits site at end of shift and delivers notice of success
 - No sale - Letter of notice of success mailed to site (congratulates seller and licensee)
 - Sale - Officer returns after compliance checks, ID's seller, and issues warning/citation and notice of failure
 - Immediate contact with failures only

This information is provided by Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County
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