



News Release

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Ten out of 11 businesses pass OLCC checks for alcohol sales to minors

Bend, OR – Ten out of 11 businesses in Bend, Redmond, Sisters and Prineville passed an Oregon Liquor Control Commission minor sales check on Oct. 17. The 91 percent passing rate is well above the 2007 statewide average of 78 percent.

The commission performs the minor sales checks in an effort to reduce drinking by minors, which is a serious problem throughout the state. The OLCC tests about 1,300 licensed liquor businesses each year. Licensees or their employees can be held liable for alcohol-related damages and injuries if they serve or sell alcohol to a minor.

Servers, bartenders and licensees whose employees sell alcohol to the minor or do not verify the minor's age, are subject to OLCC administrative penalties including fines or suspensions. Store clerks who sell can be cited with criminal charges and a minimum \$350 fine.

"It's really encouraging to see so many licensees checking ID and keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors," said Jason Evers, OLCC Bend Regional Manager. "Studies show that teens who binge drink before age 21 are more likely to develop alcohol dependency as adults."

The following licensees were tested and passed the compliance check: **Bronco Billy's**, Sisters; **Space Age**, Sisters; **Westside Texaco**, Bend; **Riverside Market**, Bend; **Old Mill Martini Bar**, Bend; **Lava Lanes**, Bend; **Sisters Mainline Station**, Sisters; **D&H Texaco**, Redmond; **Mazatlan Mexican Restaurant**, Redmond and **Niblick & Greene**, Redmond.

The following licensee was tested and failed the compliance check: **Taqueria Mi Ranchito**, Prineville.

Under Oregon law, businesses in cities with a population of 20,000 or more have an equal chance of being randomly selected for a minor decoy compliance check. A business can also be selected for a compliance check if there is a documented complaint of sales to minors. Businesses in cities with a population under 20,000 and unincorporated areas in counties are not subject to these selection requirements.

The OLCC offers a free training course on how to check ID's. Participants learn how to identify false identification and the laws regarding minors and alcohol. Additional training opportunities are available including classes for store clerks and service permit holders. Interested persons can call the local OLCC office to schedule a training session.

During the sales checks, a minor volunteer attempts to purchase alcohol from a licensed business to see if staff are checking ID's correctly and refusing to sell alcohol to anyone under 21. Commission inspectors or other law enforcement officers supervise the minor volunteers. The volunteers carry their own legal ID and do not disguise their age or lie to encourage the sale of alcohol.

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Promoting the public interest through responsible alcohol sales and service.