



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two separate stores sell tobacco to Minor-Police Decoys

Woodland, CA. – Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced today that on September 26, 2009, a Capay woman and a Davis man were arrested Saturday night, during separate incidents for selling tobacco to undercover police decoys. Investigators from the Yolo County District Attorney's office continue to conduct compliance checks on those businesses in the County and City of Davis that choose to sell tobacco products. The operations are funded by the licensing fees collected from those same businesses.

During the operations, the District Attorney's Office uses minors as decoys. The decoys are supervised by peace officers, and enter into tobacco selling establishments to purchase tobacco. On Saturday evening., a seventeen year old and two sixteen year old decoys entered Road Trip Café in Capay. The decoy asked for a pack of cigarettes. The clerk asked for an ID and then sold the cigarettes to the minor despite the card showing that the minor didn't turn eighteen until September of 2010.

Later that evening, the same decoys entered Safeway in South Davis. At this store cigarettes are sold at a customer service desk. When asked for cigarettes, the clerk handed the decoys a single pack and instructed them to pay at an open cash register. When it was their turn in line, the sixteen year old decoy presented the cigarettes for payment. As the clerk began to ring up the sale, the register beeped, a button was pushed, and the sale was allowed to occur. The clerk never asked for identification.

District Attorney Investigator Dan Stroski, who supervises the tobacco sting detail, says "Despite our offer to give employers free copies of the DMV pamphlets on how to check identification, we are still seeing the same mistakes being made." Licensed businesses may obtain pamphlets by sending a request and a self-addressed to:

Lt. Daniel J Stroski
Yolo County District Attorney's Office
301 Second Street
Woodland, CA 95695

The offending clerks were issued citations and ordered to appear in court on November 4, 2009 at the Yolo County Superior Court. Should the clerks be found guilty, they could receive a fine of up to \$200, and the stores may lose their privilege of selling tobacco for up to thirty days.

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