

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Wendy Murdock
(517) 796-5129
wmurdock@uwjackson.org

Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition
536 N. Jackson Street
Jackson, MI 49201
(517) 784-2430 fax



ALCOHOL COMPLIANCE CHECKS SLATED FOR SUMMER

JACKSON, Michigan [June 30, 2014] – Area law enforcement agencies, in partnership with the Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (JCSAPC), are conducting alcohol compliance checks this summer to make sure retailers aren't selling alcohol to minors. All vendors, both restaurants and retail stores, will be included in these checks.

"When things get busy at a store's checkout counter, it's easy for the cashier to forget to verify if a person is buying alcohol legally," said Matthew Heins, Director of Police and Fire Services, Jackson Police Department. "We do compliance checks both to remind retailers of the law and to enforce it where necessary. Our goal is to keep alcohol out of the hands of minors, helping keep them safe and our community secure."

A compliance check works like this: An underage individual, under supervision of a law enforcement officer, attempts to buy alcohol at a retail business. If the employee making the sale doesn't verify the person's age, and therefore sells to a minor, both the employee and the business will be cited in accordance with the Michigan Liquor Control Code of 1998. Selling to minors is a misdemeanor, results in monetary fines and possibly loss of the retailer's liquor license.

Director Heins said the compliance checks aren't intended to trap retailers, but to encourage them to make sure that employees know and follow the law. "We announce these checks ahead of time so retailers can train their employees to verify the age of people purchasing alcohol," he said.

Funding for the compliance checks is provided through a grant from the Drug Free Communities Support Program. In addition, JCSAPC provides free education to retailers, training half of all alcohol vendors in Jackson County each year on how to educate employees, proper signage and how to identify illegal sales.

About JCSAPC

The Jackson County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition works to reduce youth and adult substance use/abuse by building community capacity and supporting substance abuse prevention, early intervention and treatment through recovery oriented systems. The vision of JCSAPC is to have a safe and healthy community free of substance abuse. www.drugfreejackson.com

#