

ALCOHOL

Got an ID?

Prevent alcohol sales to minors!

Alcohol sales to minors is a criminal offense.

Minnesota law prohibits the sale of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. Performing unannounced alcohol compliance checks at all businesses licensed to sell or serve alcohol is one important way officers in Rice County enforce this law.

What are alcohol compliance checks?

An alcohol compliance check is one tool that law enforcement agencies use to uphold Minnesota State Law prohibiting the sale of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. A compliance check is an unannounced visit by police or sheriff's department officers. The officers bring with them a person under age 21 who attempts to purchase alcohol. If the under-age buyer is asked for a valid ID and denied service or purchase, the business and employee have successfully passed their compliance check. If the minor is not asked for an ID and is sold alcohol products, both the business and the employee will be charged and fined penalties.

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Why is this important?

There are many problems and risks facing youth who use alcohol. Some include:

- **Traffic crashes.** Impaired driving leads to traffic related injuries and fatalities, the #1 cause of death in the 15 to 21 age group.
- **Exposure to other risk behaviors.** Early alcohol use has been linked to the use of other controlled substances such as marijuana and other drugs.
- **Violence.** Acts of violence against youth and perpetrated by youth, including sexual assault, increase among individuals who have been drinking.

What can I do?

- **Be prepared.** Calculate the date of birth that must appear on an ID before you can sell or serve alcohol to someone. Post the date somewhere you can refer to it easily, such as a cash register
- **Always ask for an ID.** If the one produced looks questionable, ask to see another ID.
- **Don't give in.** If the customer complains or persists, offer to have them speak to your manager.

How do I find out more?

Each person who sells or serves alcohol is required to participate in Alcohol Awareness Training. Rice County offers trainings in Northfield and Faribault.

- For information about local training offered monthly call either Becky at Rice County Chemical Health Coalition (507-838-1788) or Brian at South Central College (507-332-5874.)
- For information about alcohol compliance checks, contact your local law enforcement agency to speak with an officer responsible for compliance checks.
 - Rice County Sheriff- 507-334-4391
 - Northfield Police Department- 507-645-4475
 - Faribault Police Department- 507-334-4305

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Rice County Chemical Health Coalition
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