



—DEPARTMENT OF—
REVENUE
—
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2017

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Lee County, Miss. – Following complaints that several area businesses were selling beer to minors, agents of the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) checked five area businesses on April 26, 2017. As a result, employees at two businesses were charged with the sale of beer to a person under twenty-one years of age. The following were issued citations:

- Curtessa Ray, of 2816 Oakview Dr. Tupelo, MS., employed by Bull Market, 279 Booth St., Guntown, MS
- Minnie Chatman, of 840 Elvis Presley Dr. Tupelo, MS, employed by Quick Mart Shell, 1490 MS-348, Guntown, MS

As a first offense, the penalty for selling to a minor is not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000 which will be determined by the Lee County Justice Court.

The other three businesses that were checked did not sell to the ABC-approved minor who attempted to purchase beer. All three appropriately checked the minor's valid Mississippi Driver's License and refused the sale.

During prom and graduation season, alcohol sales to minors increases. Rusty Hanna, chief of Enforcement for the ABC states, "Underage alcohol consumption is a serious public safety issue. Statistics show that a significant portion of vehicle accidents among people under twenty-one is a result of drinking. Having our agents out there when local law enforcement assets are already spread thin helps to reduce alcohol related accidents and traffic fatalities."