

**NH Division of Liquor Enforcement, Licensing & Education to Hold Age Assessment Panel
for the Recruitment of Underage Buyers for Tobacco & Alcohol Compliance Checks
Saturday, June 22 at 12noon**

Location: Medallion Opera House, 20 Park Street, Gorham, NH

Throughout the year, the New Hampshire Division of Liquor Enforcement conducts tobacco and alcohol compliance checks. Compliance checks are educational programs, conducted to ensure licensed establishments throughout the state are properly identifying youthful-appearing customers who attempt to purchase tobacco or alcohol products.

The checks are conducted by sending an underage buyer into an off-sale and/or on-sale licensee for them to attempt to purchase alcohol or a tobacco product. If the employees of the establishment request identification from the buyer, the buyer produces their NH Driver's License indicating they are under the legal age to purchase that product. The buyer can not lie and must tell the employee their real age, if asked.

The goal of these compliance checks is to ensure clerks, wait staff, and any other employee selling alcohol or tobacco is asking for the identification of youthful appearing customers and patrons and checking the identification properly. The underage buyers used in this program must go through an approval process with the NH Division of Liquor Enforcement before being allowed to participate in the checks.

The Age Assessment Panel determines if the prospective underage buyer meets the requirements to become an underage buyer. An Age Assessment Panel consists of licensees, teachers, parents and/or community members who interact with the youth population on a regular basis. The panel assesses the age of the participant and the majority of the panel must assess each participant's age within the approved age range. Tobacco buyers must be between the ages of 16-19, and must be assessed by the panel to look between the ages of 16-19. Alcohol buyers must be between the ages of 16-19 and must look between the ages of 16-19.

Once an individual is approved through this panel process, they will be added to the Approved Minors List. Approved Minors work on a voluntary basis and will be offered a stipend of \$15 per hour for Compliance Check Operations and initial training time.

The NH Division of Liquor Enforcement is hosting an Age Assessment Panel on Saturday, June 22 at 12noon located at the Medallion Opera House, Gorham, NH. We anticipate the panel taking approximately an hour and a half.

Please register with Julie Mento, FDA Program Coordinator with the name and contact information of anyone who will be attending the panel. (301) 332-4681 or julie.mento@liquor.nh.gov or julie.mento@fda.hhs.gov .