

Undercover Buy Operations Youth Training Outline 2002

I. Purpose of Undercover Buys

1. Gather information to determine the illegal sales rate of tobacco products to minors.
2. Monitor illegal sales to minors annually.
3. Report these rates to the press and local elected officials.

II. What Participants Should Know

1. Citations are not issued and stores will not be fined
2. Participation by youth will remain confidential.
3. Parent Permission and Participant Record forms must be completed prior to youth participation in the buys.
4. Minor decoys have been granted immunity from prosecution by the District Attorney during their participation in these undercover buys. A copy of the DA's letter is carried by the driver.
5. Youth must possess a valid California ID and be 16 or 17 years of age.

III. What are youth required to do?

1. Specific transportation arrangements will be made with you, and in most cases, you will be picked up after school.
2. Youth typically ride in a car, with one other teen and one adult driver.
3. You will visit a specific number of stores.
4. Drivers will have cash to buy tobacco and snacks. You will have \$1 to spend on snacks in each store. If you want to spend \$2 in one store and zero in the next, that's OK.
5. You will be responsible for observing a few things while you are in the store and reporting to the driver specific information about your "attempted buy". (*See attached data collection form.*)
6. Please bring valid identification with you, if you have it.
7. Dress just as you would to attend school.

IV. How are the undercover buys conducted?

- Youth and adult teams "shop" the retail stores on their list systematically. They drive to the retailer's outlets and the adult driver will park in an inconspicuous location.
- Youth enter the retail location and do the following:
 - Act as if you are going to buy a snack, look around and select something to purchase.
 - Observe where the tobacco products are placed within the store (such as on the counter, in open display racks, etc.).
 - Observe to see if the STAKE Act sign is displayed on the counter or near the register. (A sample of this sign will be shown to you during your orientation).
 - Approach the counter to make your purchase.
 1. If you can pick up the cigarettes yourself, then pick them up. Place your cigarettes and snack on the counter, and wait for the clerk to ring up the sale.
 2. If you cannot pick up the tobacco product yourself, then ask the clerk for a specific brand of cigarettes. ("Can I have a pack of Reds, Camels, Newports?" or "Pack of Marlboro Reds please.") You will have a chance to practice this in more detail during your orientation. Adults give youth an opportunity to role-play the purchasing scenarios.
 - Pay for the purchase(s), and leave the store.
 - Do not speak to the clerk beyond exchanging a greeting, unless spoken to.

- Show your ID if you are asked for it or for your age. If asked again for your age, do not lie.
- Once you are back in the car, the driver will ask you a set of questions in order to fill out the data collection form.

**Undercover Buy Operations
Youth Training Outline 2002
(Continued)**

V. What's the same? You always:

- If you are asked for your ID, show it.
- If you are asked your age, show your ID. If you are asked your age again, do not lie.
- Be polite at all times, don't argue with clerks.

If you feel uncomfortable at any time, return to the car immediately!

*Your 1st priority is to attempt to buy tobacco products while in the store, if you can make the observations requested, it would be appreciated, but this is not the priority.