

Union County State's Attorney

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Press Release - For Immediate Release

Elk Point, S.D. – State's Attorney Jerry A. Miller announces that Union County will again participate this year in Tobacco Inspections of retailers. We will again be cooperating with the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, the SD Retailers Association, and our local law enforcement to monitor the compliance of retailers in our efforts to keep tobacco products out of the hands of youth under the age of 18.

Because of our continued effort in this program and the effort of other state's attorneys and law enforcement across the state, the buy rate for tobacco products for youth under the age of 18 went from a high of 84% in 1997 to 6.7% last fiscal year. To maintain this low rate, it is critical that tobacco inspections coupled with retailer education and stringent enforcement continue.

The upcoming survey of retailers that sell tobacco products are required by federal regulation to be conducted on an annual basis, to be random, and unannounced. Last fiscal year, Union County did very well during this survey, and this year we are hoping for 100% compliance.