



Alcoholic Beverage  
Commission



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **TABC investigates, sends a cease and desist letter to CaskCartel.com**

NASHVILLE, TN, September 28, 2020 – Russell Thomas, Director of the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC), announced a cease and desist letter was sent on September 18, 2020, to the owners of the website caskcartel.com for violations of Tennessee state law. The illegal activities were discovered through a recent TABC undercover investigation. TABC agents were able to order and receive the illegal shipments of liquor through an online transaction facilitated by the company's website.

Thomas presented the results of the operation to the TABC Commissioners during the Commission's monthly meeting in Nashville on September 24, 2020. Also attending the meeting were commission staff, current applicants, members of the public, and a representative of Tennessee M.A.D.D. Due to COVID-19, in-person attendance was limited, however, remote video conferencing was made available for those who wished to participate.

After the facts of the investigation were presented, similar illegal operations who knowingly sell alcohol to Tennesseans in violation of state law were discussed. Thomas stated: “There are several illegal businesses that have developed sophisticated web presences and market products to consumers in Tennessee. These websites appear to consumers to be a legitimate business, yet no matter how polished their website is or how much money they spend on internet advertising, they are operating illegally.” Thomas warned the public to be cautious of websites that conceal the owner’s identity and do not reveal a physical address. He suggested consumers ask businesses for their Tennessee license numbers and call the TABC if they have suspicions.

The TABC investigates illegal shipments of alcohol in Tennessee and additionally conducts minor compliance checks on common carriers to ensure alcohol is delivered only to those older than 21 years of age.

For more information about the Tennessee Alcoholic Beverage Commission, please visit [www.tn.gov/abc](http://www.tn.gov/abc).

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