

News Release

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Alexandria couple's felony tax charges include evading tax on a motor vehicle purchase

St. Paul – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Douglas County Attorney's Office recently charged Robert Thompson, 57, of Alexandria, with twenty-one felony tax crimes. One of the charges relates to his failure to pay tax on a recreational vehicle purchase. His wife, Susan Thompson, 56, was charged with eight felony tax crimes. The couple allegedly owes the state more than \$222,000 in taxes, penalty and interest.

Robert Thompson is charged with four counts of each of the following: failure to file income tax returns, failure to remit a tax, failure to remit sales tax, failure to file sales tax returns, failure to pay over state funds and one count of failure to submit a motor vehicle purchaser's certificate with intent to evade tax.

Susan Thompson is charged with four counts of failure to file income tax returns and four counts of failure to remit taxes.

According to the complaint, Robert is part owner of CI Construction, LLC in Alexandria, among other businesses, and the couple has not filed state income tax returns or paid tax due since 1998. The Thompsons live in Alexandria and their vehicles, including two Jaguars and a Cadillac TDS, are registered to Robert at their Alexandria address.

The complaint states that in February 2010, Thompson traded a 2005 recreational vehicle for a 2009 model in Texas. After trade-in, the cost of the motor home was \$99,000. A receipt shows no tax was charged for the purchase. Thompson purchased the vehicle in the name of CI Construction Management, LLC, a business he registered with the state of Montana.

During an investigation, Minnesota Department of Revenue investigators photographed the motor home at CI Construction, LLC in Alexandria and later found it inside the business's warehouse during the execution of a search warrant. An employee also told investigators Thompson mentioned it was cheaper to register a motor home in Montana. The sales tax owed on the motor home is more than \$12,000.

Each felony is punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$10,000 fine, or both.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects an individual or business is violating tax laws, at 651-297-5195 or 1-800-657-3500. Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Last year, citizen tips resulted in 75 percent of the department's criminal case referrals.

While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes progressive enforcement action against non-compliant taxpayers ensuring tax laws are fairly administered, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe.

Learn how the Minnesota Department of Revenue is working to stop tax evasion on recreational vehicles [here](#).

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