



News Release

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Arden Hills Woman Facing Felony Tax Charges

Saint Paul – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Ramsey County Attorney's Office recently charged Maria Valerio-Vazquez, 43, of Arden Hills, with six felony tax crimes.

Valerio-Vazquez is charged with six counts of failing to file a tax return for tax years 2004 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Valerio-Vazquez, who worked at an Arden Hills company that makes body-worn devices, was using another woman's name and social security number. Police visited her at work and found her ID badge, credit cards and her driver's license with another woman's name on them.

The complaint also states Valerio-Vazquez filed a withholding form W-4 with her employer and stated she had six dependants. She later admitted to police that she was in the United States illegally and had fewer dependents. She also stated she has never filed a tax return or paid income taxes.

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.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue is dedicated to enforcing tax laws, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe. It takes progressively stricter measures against taxpayers who demonstrate they will not voluntarily meet their obligations.

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