



News Release

CONTACT Lisa Waldrup
PHONE 651-556-NEWS (6397)
E-MAIL lisa.waldrup@state.mn.us

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Cambridge Man Facing Felony Tax Charges

Saint Paul – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Isanti County Attorney's Office recently charged Ryan Esposito, 29, of Cambridge, with five felony tax charges.

Esposito is charged with five counts of filing false returns for tax years 2006 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Esposito allegedly filed income tax returns for those years which contained false information.

In his 2006 income tax return, Esposito listed himself as head of household and claimed his girlfriend as a dependant. However, she filed her own tax return for the same year.

In Esposito's 2007 income tax return, he allegedly omitted unemployment income and fraudulently claimed moving and employee expenses. He also claimed his girlfriend, listed as his sister, as a dependent. The result was a fraudulent refund of more than \$1,400.

In his 2008 return, Esposito omitted unemployment income and interest and filed as head of household with a dependent he was not entitled to claim. This resulted in a fraudulent gain of more than \$1,200.

Esposito filed a 2009 return fabricating a claim of withholding for more than \$29,000. He also claimed \$189,000 in his W-2 wage income when he actually received only \$897 in W-2 income. As a result, he received a fraudulent tax refund of more than \$16,000.

In addition, when asked to supply the department with copies of his W-2's, Esposito allegedly created forged W-2's which he sent to the department.

Each felony is punishable by up to one year in jail, up to a \$3,000 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 88 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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