



## News Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Eagan Woman Facing Felony Tax Charges**

**Saint Paul** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged Emma Mason, 25, of Eagan, with three felony tax crimes.

Mason is charged with three counts of filing fraudulent returns for tax years 2007 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Mason prepared her 2007 state income tax return and failed to report income from two employers. She claimed another one of her employer’s withheld \$747 in state taxes but actually only withheld \$75. As a result, Mason avoided paying \$672 in taxes. She now owes the state \$756 in taxes for 2007, including penalty and interest.

For 2008, Mason claimed that her employer withheld \$1,575 in state taxes from her income when only \$57 was withheld for the year. As a result, Mason fraudulently received a refund from the state in the amount of \$923. As a result, Mason owes the state \$2,435 in taxes for 2008, including penalty and interest.

For tax year 2009, Mason claimed \$1,925 in state taxes was withheld from her paychecks. However, no state income tax was withheld from her paychecks. As a result, Mason fraudulently received an \$872 refund from the state. However, she owes the state \$2,962 for 2009, including penalty and interest.

Mason owes the state more than \$6,100 including penalty and interest.

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](mailto: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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