



News Release

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

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Owatonna Man Facing Felony Tax Charges

Saint Paul – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Steele County Attorney’s Office recently charged John Craig Moen, 49, of Owatonna, with ten felony tax crimes.

Moen is charged with five counts of filing fraudulent returns and five counts of tax evasion for tax years 2005 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Moen falsified his state income tax returns for tax years 2005 through 2009. He allegedly overstated the amount of state income tax withheld by his employer; therefore Moen paid less in taxes than he should have.

The complaint states that earlier this year, Moen acknowledged that he personally completed the tax returns and admitted overstating the tax withholdings. In addition, it states he did it to, “try to stretch the payments a little bit.” He also admitted it was bad judgment to file his returns this way but said he was doing it in an attempt to defer payments.

Moen evaded paying more than \$10,900 in state taxes, not 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. 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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