



News Release

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St. Paul Woman Facing Felony Tax Charges

Saint Paul – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office charged Alissa Behling, 30, of St. Paul, formerly of Minneapolis, with three felony tax crimes.

Behling is charged with three counts filing a fraudulent return with the commissioner for tax years 2007 through 2009.

According to the complaint, Behling falsified her 2007, 2008 and 2009 tax returns. She allegedly overstated her state income tax withholding by more than \$4,500 between 2007 and 2010. As a result of the false information she provided, Behling received inflated tax refunds for each of those years.

For 2007, Behling claimed that \$1,758 in state income tax was withheld, when only \$498 was actually withheld. She received a refund of \$600 as a result of the fraudulent return.

For 2008, she claimed \$2,965 was withheld when \$1,997 was actually withheld. The fraudulent return resulted in a \$1,189 refund.

For 2009, Behling claimed \$3,992 was withheld, when \$1,692 was actually withheld. As a result of the fraudulent return, she received a refund of \$2,182. This refund was recaptured at a later date.

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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