



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### Lakeville Man Charged With Tax Crimes

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced today that the Scott County Attorney’s Office recently charged Stephen Lloyd Higgins, 36, of Lakeville with six tax related felonies. Higgins allegedly owes the state more than \$274,000.

Higgins has been charged with two counts of failing to file returns, two counts of failing to pay taxes and two counts of filing fraudulent returns.

According to the criminal complaint, Higgins owned the Basement Bar and Grill in Prior Lake. An investigation showed that sales tax returns Higgins filed between 2008 and 2009 were fraudulent and that he knowingly failed to file monthly sales tax returns between January 2010 and December 2011.

The bar and grill was placed on the department’s liquor posting list several times between 2008 and 2010 as a result of delinquent sales tax returns and payments.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects an individual or business is violating tax laws. That number is 651-297-5195, or 1-800-657-3500 (TTY users call 711 for Minnesota Relay). 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 totaled 75 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals.

While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes progressive enforcement action against non-compliant taxpayers ensuring tax laws are fairly administered, collecting no more and no less than taxpayers owe.

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