



News Release

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

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Contact: Lisa Erickson
Phone: 651-556-6397
Lisa.erickson@state.mn.us

St. Paul man charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged Til B Pokwal Chhetri, 35, of St. Paul, with two tax related gross misdemeanors.

Chhetri is charged with selling unstamped (untaxed) cigarettes and for purchasing cigarettes from an unlicensed seller.

According to the criminal complaint, department agents went to Chheteri’s St. Paul store, Himalayan Groceries N Tobacco, where they found 317 unstamped cigarette packages – which is more than 6,300 cigarettes. Chheteri allegedly admitted purchasing the cigarettes in North Dakota before trying to sell them in his store. In Minnesota, it is a crime to transport more than 5,000 unstamped cigarettes from another state. It is also illegal to purchase more than 5,000 cigarettes from an unlicensed seller.

For more information on the rules and laws for selling cigarettes, click [here](#).

The charges each carry a maximum penalty of up to one year in prison and up to a \$3,000 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. In 2012, citizen tips totaled 80 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals.

While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes enforcement action against non-compliant taxpayers ensuring tax laws are fairly administered.

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