

## News Release

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### **Cedar man charged with tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Anoka County Attorney’s Office recently charged Robert Sherwood, 46, of Cedar, with four tax-related felonies.

Sherwood is charged with four counts of making sales after his sales tax permit was revoked.

According to the criminal complaint, Sherwood owns a car repair business, Johnson Automotive, in Fridley. The business was issued a sales tax permit, allowing retail sales to be made. Sherwood allegedly failed to file paperwork on the sales tax being collected. In February 2013, the state told Sherwood his permit was revoked, he could not make retail sales in Minnesota and that it is a felony to make retail sales in the state without a permit.

Sherwood continued to repair cars and charge customers, after being informed his permit was revoked. Sherwood allegedly continues to operate his business, which is against the law.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of up to five years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects a person 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). In 2012, 80 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

While most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the Minnesota Department of Revenue takes enforcement action against noncompliant taxpayers to ensure tax laws are fairly administered.

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