

## News Release

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### Hastings woman charged with tax crimes

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Dakota County Attorney’s Office recently charged Tracy Schmidt, 39, of Hastings, with 4 tax-related felonies.

Schmidt is charged with 4 counts of filing fraudulent income tax returns for tax years 2009 through 2012.

According to the criminal complaint, Schmidt included false information on her tax returns by overstating the amount of withholding taxes and underreporting income.

The complaint also states Schmidt received more than \$8,000 in refunds for these years, to which she was not entitled. Had she filed the tax returns correctly, she would have owed income tax for each of these years. She has not paid any of the taxes owed.

Each felony 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. Tipsters may remain anonymous and can also email the department at [tax.fraud@state.mn.us](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). In 2013, 85 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

Although 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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