

News Release

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St. Paul business owners charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged Yasmin Ali, 33, and Ahmed Mohamed, 46, of Fridley, with tax-related felonies.

Yasmin Ali is charged with 11 tax-related counts, including 4 counts of filing false tax returns, 4 counts of failing to pay income taxes and 3 counts of filing false amended tax returns.

Ahmed Mohamed is charged with nine tax-related counts, including three counts of filing false tax returns, three counts of failing to pay income taxes, and three counts of filing false amended tax returns. The couple is also charged with non-tax-related crimes.

According to the criminal complaint, Yasmin Ali and Ahmed Mohamed own a group of businesses, including several Deqo Family Centers, which provide child care.

According to the complaint, Yasmin Ali and Ahmed Mohamed included inflated business expenses on their 2009 through 2012 income tax returns. By overstating expenses and underreporting income, the couple allegedly owes the state more than \$202,000 in delinquent taxes, penalties, and interest.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of up to 5 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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.

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. In 2013, 85 percent of the department's criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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