

## News Release

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### **Hennepin County business owner charged with tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged David Brennan, of Eden Prairie, with 26 tax-related felonies.

Brennan is charged with 26 counts, including: 5 counts of failing to file sales tax returns, 7 counts of failing to pay sales tax, 5 counts of failing to file withholding taxes, 6 counts of failing to pay withholding tax, and 3 counts of failing to file income tax returns.

According to the criminal complaint, Brennan is the owner of Brennan Nursery and Florist, Inc. In 2011, Brennan registered the business for sales, employee withholding, and corporate tax but records show he never filed or paid any sales or withholding taxes to the state for that business. He also failed to file income taxes between 2010 and 2012.

The complaint states Brennan admitted to department investigators, he knew he had sales and withholding tax obligations but failed to file and pay these taxes. He also admitted he failed to file his own income taxes, even though he prepared and filed tax returns for customers through another business he runs, Brennan Accounting Services, Inc.

It is estimated Brennan owes between \$100,000 and \$150,000 in sales tax and \$26,000 in withholding taxes, including penalty and interest.

Each felony charge carries a maximum penalty of up to five 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](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). In 2014, 87 percent of the department's criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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