

News Release

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Wayzata couple charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Sherburne County Attorney’s Office recently charged Travis and Miranda Hills, of Wayzata, with several tax-related felonies.

Mr. Hills is charged with five counts of failing to file returns and five counts of failing to pay taxes.

Mrs. Hills is charged with four counts of failing to file returns and four counts of failing to pay taxes.

According to the criminal complaint, the couple owns several fitness and tanning businesses and failed to report any income earned, as they failed to file and pay income taxes for 2008 through 2011.

The couple allegedly owes the state an estimated \$99,000 in delinquent income taxes and more than \$4,000 in delinquent sales tax, not including penalty or 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. In 2014, 87 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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