



News Release

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St. Paul couple charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged Barry Lee Engen and Dianne L. Engen of St. Paul with several tax-related felonies.

Mr. Engen is charged with two counts of failing to file an income tax return, two counts of filing a false tax return, and four counts of failing to pay income tax. He has also been charged with four counts of theft, one count of theft by swindle, and one count of insurance fraud.

Mrs. Engen is charged with two counts of failing to file an income tax return and two counts of failing to pay income tax.

The complaint states that Mr. Engen failed to notify a life insurance company of his father’s death and continuing to collect monthly annuity payments of \$3,183.40 for more than six years as the executor of the estate. The complaint states that the Engens did not claim or pay income tax on the annuity payments and other income they received when filing income tax returns in 2009 and 2010. According to the criminal complaint, the couple failed to file income tax returns and failed to pay incomes taxes in 2011 and 2012, and the couple owes more than \$20,000 in income tax, penalties, and interest.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. 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 that tax laws are administered fairly.

The Minnesota Department of Revenue has a 24-hour tip line for anyone who suspects a person or business is violating Minnesota tax laws. Local callers may dial 651-297-5195 or call toll-free by dialing 1-800-657-3500. Tips can also be submitted to the department by email at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous. In 2014, 87 percent of the department’s criminal case referrals came from citizen tips.

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