



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 11, 2016

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Erhard woman charged with tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Otter Tail County Attorney’s Office recently charged Amiee Marie Haarstick of Erhard with several tax-related felonies.

Ms. Haarstick was charged with four counts of filing false or fraudulent income tax returns.

The complaint states that Ms. Haarstick knowingly filed fraudulent or false income tax returns for tax years 2010 through 2013. During those years, Ms. Haarstick falsely claimed that a former employer, which closed in 2009, had withheld taxes on her behalf, according to the complaint. The withholding overstatements resulted in fraudulent state tax refunds of \$5,758 and over \$9,000 in fraudulent federal tax refunds.

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 that 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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