



News Release

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Blooming Prairie couple charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Steele County Attorney’s Office recently charged Michael Ray Tapp and Sheridan Jo Tapp, both of Blooming Prairie, with several tax-related felonies and gross misdemeanors.

The Tapps are each charged with three counts of failing to file income tax returns and three counts of failing to pay income tax. Both individuals are also charged with five counts of failing to remit sales and use tax.

The complaint states that the Tapps willfully attempted to evade income tax laws by not filing income tax returns for tax years 2009 and 2010. The complaint alleges that they failed to pay more than \$29,000 in income tax for those two years.

The complaint also states that the Tapps, co-owners of a tanning salon called “Tapp the Sun”, failed to remit sales tax that their business collected between December 2009 and April 2012. The Tapps collectively owe more than \$45,000 in sales tax, penalties, and interest, according to the complaint.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Each tax-related gross misdemeanor charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a \$3,000 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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