



## News Release

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### Minneapolis man charged with tax crimes

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Abdelaziz Moustafa Elsayed with one tax-related felony.

Mr. Elsayed is charged with one count of possessing untaxed tobacco products and unstamped cigarettes.

The complaint states that, in November 2013, agents from the Department of Revenue conducted a routine retail inspection of Mr. Elsayed’s business, Sabra, Inc.—which does business as Super USA. During the inspection, the agents discovered and seized more than 30,000 unstamped cigarettes, as well as a large quantity of other tobacco products. Invoices could not be located for the items, some of which were purchased from an out-of-state distributor that was not licensed to sell tobacco in Minnesota, according to the complaint. The complaint further states that, during a follow-up inspection a day later, the agents found and seized additional contraband cigarettes and tobacco. Mr. Elsayed did not appeal the seizures, according to the complaint. Mr. Elsayed is alleged to have avoided paying more than \$13,800 in cigarette and tobacco taxes.

Each tax-related felony carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Defendants are presumed to be innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This is an example of the department’s ongoing efforts to uniformly enforce the state’s cigarette and tobacco laws. For more information on the tax laws related to tobacco products in Minnesota, [visit our webpage](#).

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.

Many of the department’s criminal case referrals come from citizen tips. 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

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dialing 1-800-657-3500. Tips can also be submitted to the department by email at [tax.fraud@state.mn.us](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

Get the latest news and updates from the Minnesota Department of Revenue by following the department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or by signing up for our [email subscription list](#).

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