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Duluth man charged with multiple tax crimes in Hennepin County

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Jay Dean Low, of Duluth, with 10 tax-related felonies. Mr. Low is charged with five counts of filing fraudulent income tax returns and five counts of failing to pay income taxes.

The complaint states that, while living in Plymouth, Mr. Low knowingly filed fraudulent income tax returns for tax years 2011 through 2015. The complaint alleges that Mr. Low altered documents, including W-2 forms and charitable contribution receipts, and gave them to his accountants, who unwittingly filed the fraudulent returns that allowed Mr. Low to claim thousands of dollars in refunds to which he was not entitled. In reviewing his claims for refunds, the complaint indicates that department investigators examined official W-2s from his employers and others as well as the contribution statements from his church. The investigators determined that Mr. Low knowingly overstated his withholdings and charitable contributions by thousands of dollars each year and omitted income he received from unemployment benefits, according to the complaint. Mr. Low allegedly owes more than \$129,000 to the state.

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 department 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. There is 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.

 News Release

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