
News Release

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Eagan man convicted of tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Dakota County District Court recently convicted Eagan resident Stephen Edward Matters on one count of failing to file an income tax return, one count of failing to file a withholding tax return, and one count of making retail sales after his sales tax permit was revoked. Mr. Matters was sentenced to serve one year in jail, eight years of probation, and pay more than \$101,000 in restitution.

“This outcome is the result of the hard work and collaboration between the department and our partners in law enforcement,” said Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly.

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom commented: “We are pleased to have brought this Defendant to justice for these serious tax-related felony crimes.”

Mr. Matters was charged with [24 tax-related felonies](#) by the Dakota County Attorney’s Office in February 2016. The charges involved Mr. Matters’ failure to file and pay his individual income taxes for multiple years. He was also charged with failing to file and pay sales and withholding taxes for his business, along with continuing to operate that business after the department revoked his sales tax permit.

Mr. Matters was previously convicted of seven tax-related felonies in 2009. He was sentenced to 30 days of home monitoring, eight years of probation, and was fined nearly \$1,400.

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



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submitted to the department by email at tax.fraud@state.mn.us. Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

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