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New Prague couple charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Rice County Attorney’s Office recently charged Steven Ronald Tupy and Linda Marie Tupy with 15 tax-related felonies each. The Tupys, both of New Prague, are each charged with five counts of failing to file sales tax returns, five counts of failing to pay sales tax, and five counts of making retail sales after revocation of their sales tax permit.

According to the complaint, the Tupys’ business—Tupy & Kubes Tree Service, Inc.—filed returns for May 2008, but failed to pay the balance due. Tupy & Kubes Tree Service, Inc. incurred additional debts for sales and withholding taxes in 2009, the complaint states, and agreed in April 2010 to make payments in order to keep their sales tax permit. The business defaulted on the payment agreement in October, the complaint alleges, and the department revoked the Tupys’ sales tax permit in December 2010. The complaint alleges that, even though their sales tax permit was revoked, the Tupys continued operating their business from 2012 through 2016. The complaint further states that, during that period of time, the Tupys failed to file sales tax returns and failed to send the sales taxes they collected from customers to the state. The Tupys allegedly owe more than \$76,000 in taxes, penalties, and interest.

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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