

News Release

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Blaine man charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Anoka County Attorney’s Office recently charged Blaine resident Moustafa Saleh Khalil with six tax-related felonies.

Mr. Khalil is charged with three counts of failing to file income tax returns and three counts of failing to pay income taxes. According to the complaint, Mr. Khalil did not file Minnesota income tax returns or pay income taxes for tax years 2013, 2014, and 2015. The complaint alleges that Mr. Khalil was required to file income tax returns and pay income taxes on money he earned through his work at a Coon Rapids automotive dealership. The department determined that Mr. Khalil owes more than \$15,500 in unpaid income taxes for those years.

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 people comply with tax laws voluntarily, the department takes enforcement action against noncompliant persons 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.

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