

News Release

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Brooklyn Center tax preparer convicted of tax crime

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County District Court recently convicted Brooklyn Center tax preparer Adrianna Melissa Bettie of one count of falsely filing a tax return. Ms. Bettie was sentenced to three years of probation, 20 days of Sentencing-to-Service, and will pay more than \$1,200 in restitution. The court also prohibited her from taking future employment as a tax preparer.

“Taxpayers trust tax preparers to act ethically when preparing their taxes, and this case illustrates the consequences of a tax preparer abusing that trust and breaking the law,” said Revenue Commissioner Cynthia Bauerly.

Ms. Bettie was [charged with one tax-related felony and one count of identity theft](#) by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office in May 2017. The complaint stated that Ms. Bettie prepared and filed a Property Tax Refund Return for a client without the client’s knowledge or consent. Ms. Bettie then directed the refund from the return into an account that was under her control, according to the complaint.

Although the department does not certify tax preparers, state law requires tax professionals who prepare income tax returns to follow standards of ethics and conduct. The majority of tax professionals abide by these standards and provide honest service and sound advice to their clients. In the rare event that a tax professional does not comply with these standards, they may be subject to penalties or criminal prosecution and may be barred from representing clients before the department. Taxpayers can report unprofessional conduct by [contacting the department](#) at 651-296-3781.

More information on choosing a preparer is [available on our website](#) or by searching **Tax preparer** in the Search box.

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