

News Release

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Minneapolis man charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged William Joseph Stewart, of Minneapolis, with four tax-related felonies and four tax-related gross misdemeanors.

Mr. Stewart was charged with four felony counts of willfully attempting to defeat a tax law by failing to pay individual income taxes and four gross misdemeanor counts of knowingly failing to pay individual income taxes.

According to the complaint, Mr. Stewart failed to file any individual income tax returns or business tax returns from tax year 2012 through 2015. The complaint states that Mr. Stewart often paid his suppliers in cash for purchases made for his business, A OK Asphalt. Mr. Stewart’s personal and business bank accounts allegedly showed significant income from his business; however, Mr. Stewart did not file income tax returns or pay income taxes on that income. According to the complaint, Mr. Stewart contacted an accountant in October 2016 and filed his individual income tax returns for tax years 2012 through 2015. Mr. Stewart’s late-filed tax returns indicated that he owed over \$40,000 in outstanding income taxes, but the complaint states that he has not yet made any payments toward this tax liability.

Each tax-related felony charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both. Each tax-related gross misdemeanor charge carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a \$3,000 fine, or both. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Many of the department’s criminal case referrals come from public tips. The Minnesota Department of Revenue has 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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