

## News Release

CONTACT Ryan Brown  
PHONE 651-556-6397  
E-MAIL [ryan.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.brown@state.mn.us)

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Contact: Ryan Brown

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### **Minneapolis lawyer charged with multiple tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Ramsey County Attorney’s Office recently charged William Bernard Butler, of Minneapolis, with two felony counts of failing to file individual income tax returns.

According to the complaint, Mr. Butler failed to file his individual income tax returns in 2012 and 2013. The department, according to the prosecutor, estimated that Mr. Butler earned more than \$150,000 in both 2012 and 2013 through his work as a lawyer. Additionally, the complaint states that evidence from a court proceeding showed that more than \$1.35 million had been deposited into accounts Mr. Butler controlled between February 2012 and October 2013. Between the earnings estimated by the department, deposit evidence from the court proceedings, as well as evidence from a divorce trial and an IRS audit, the presented evidence indicates that Mr. Butler earned sufficient income in tax years 2012 and 2013 to meet the requirement to file individual income tax returns.

The department notified Mr. Butler that if the department were to prepare his individual income tax returns for 2011 through 2013, it would assess tax, penalties, and interest of over \$220,000. Mr. Butler, according to the complaint, did not respond to this notice or file his own income tax returns.

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.

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](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

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