



CONTACT Ryan Brown
PHONE 651-556-6397
EMAIL ryan.brown@state.mn.us

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Contact: Ryan Brown
ryan.brown@state.mn.us

Blaine woman charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Laroisha Monique Smith with five tax-related felonies. Ms. Smith, of Blaine, is charged with five counts of filing false or fraudulent income tax returns.

According to the complaint, Ms. Smith worked a variety of jobs in which her employers withheld little to no Minnesota income taxes due to her claimed allowances and exemption status. Ms. Smith filed her income tax returns for tax years 2012 through 2016, and intentionally inflated the amount of income tax that was withheld from her paychecks in order to acquire a larger tax refund, the complaint alleges. Ms. Smith owes approximately \$9,300 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 public 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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