

News Release

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Montrose couple charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Wright County Attorney’s Office recently charged Jay Alan Johnson and Sheila Ann Johnson, both of Montrose, with six tax-related felonies each.

The Johnsons are each charged with three counts of failing to file individual income tax returns and three counts of failing to pay individual income taxes.

According to the complaint, department investigators determined that the Johnsons had not filed state individual income tax returns or paid income tax for tax years 2013 through 2015, despite earning enough income to be required to file income tax returns and pay income tax. During an interview with investigators, the complaint states that Mr. Johnson admitted to not filing individual income tax returns for tax years 2013 through 2015. The Johnsons allegedly owe over \$40,900 in unpaid income tax.

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. Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

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