

## News Release

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### **Isanti man charged with multiple tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Curtiss Allan Wright, of Isanti, with eight tax-related felonies and eight tax-related gross misdemeanors.

Mr. Wright was charged with four felony counts of willfully attempting to defeat a tax law by failing to file sales tax returns, four felony counts of willfully failing to pay sales taxes, four gross misdemeanor counts of knowingly failing to file sales tax returns, and four gross misdemeanor counts of knowingly failing to pay sales taxes.

According to the complaint, Mr. Wright operated a business in Minneapolis, Shake Shoppe, which collected sales tax on purchases made by customers. Mr. Wright allegedly told department investigators that he was collecting sales tax but admitted that he did not file a sales tax return or remit the sales tax he collected to the state. The complaint states that Mr. Wright failed to file a sales tax return and failed to remit the sales tax he collected in every quarter of 2014 and each year from 2015 through 2017. According to the complaint, Mr. Wright owes more than \$27,000 in sales tax, penalties, and interest.

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

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