

## News Release

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

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Contact: Ryan Brown

[ryan.brown@state.mn.us](mailto:ryan.brown@state.mn.us)

### **Inver Grove Heights couple charged with multiple tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Dakota County Attorney’s Office recently charged Timothy David O’Brien and Sharon Murphy O’Brien, both of Inver Grove Heights, with eight tax-related felonies each. They are each charged with four counts of failing to file individual income tax returns and four counts of failing to pay individual income taxes.

According to the complaint, department investigators determined that the couple had willfully evaded filing state individual income tax returns and failed to pay income tax for tax years 2013 through 2016, despite each earning enough income to be required to file income tax returns and pay income tax. The complaint alleges that the department sent more than 35 notices to the couple over several years regarding their unfiled returns and unpaid taxes. During an interview with investigators, the complaint states that both individuals admitted to not filing individual income tax returns for tax years 2013 through 2016, and admitted to knowing they were obligated to pay incomes taxes for those years. They allegedly owe more than \$55,000 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](mailto:tax.fraud@state.mn.us). Tipsters may choose to remain anonymous.

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