

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

October 17, 2018

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Askov man charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Pine County Attorney’s Office recently charged Matthew Joseph Thompson, of Askov, with two felony counts of failing to file individual income tax returns and two felony counts of failing to pay individual income taxes.

According to the complaint, Mr. Thompson failed to file income tax returns and failed to pay income taxes for tax years 2016 and 2017. During those years, Mr. Thompson allegedly earned enough income through his business, Gator Crunch Inc., and from casino gambling winnings, to be required to file income tax returns and pay income tax in Minnesota. The complaint states that income tax returns Mr. Thompson filed in previous years included his gambling winnings, demonstrating that he knew of his obligation to file and pay income taxes and to claim gambling winnings on his returns. According to the complaint, Mr. Thompson owes more than \$29,500 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.

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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