

## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Afton man, Super Smokedale Tobacco Inc. charged with multiple tax crimes**

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Washington County Attorney’s Office recently charged Hatem Amin Younis, of Afton, with 42 tax-related felonies and one gross misdemeanor. The Washington County Attorney’s Office also charged Mr. Younis’s business, Super Smokedale Tobacco Inc., located in Oakdale, with 42 tax-related felonies and one gross misdemeanor.

Mr. Younis is personally charged with:

- 21 felony counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false sales tax returns
- 21 felony count of willfully failing to pay sales tax that was due
- 1 gross misdemeanor count of operating a business without a sales tax permit

Super Smokedale Tobacco Inc. is charged with:

- 21 felony counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns
- 21 felony counts of willfully failing to pay sales tax that was due
- 1 gross misdemeanor count of operating a business without a sales tax permit

According to the complaint, Mr. Younis owned and operated tobacco shops in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that were evading sales tax by filing false tax returns. Department investigators determined that Mr. Younis and his business allegedly underreported tobacco sales, then knowingly filed false sales tax returns and underpaid the amount of sales tax that was actually owed. According to the complaint, Mr. Younis and the business evaded more than \$918,000 in sales tax between April 2011 and December 2016, not including interest or penalties.

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 jail, a \$3,000 fine, or both. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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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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