

 News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Ryan Brown

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ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Anoka County Attorney’s Office recently charged Nasir Hussein Ahmed with seven tax-related felonies. Mr. Ahmed, of Columbia Heights, is charged with four felony counts of filing false or fraudulent income tax returns and three felony counts of filing false or fraudulent property tax refund forms.

Mr. Ahmed has owned and operated an income tax return preparation business since 2010, according to the complaint. The complaint states that Mr. Ahmed claimed a larger income tax refund than what he was eligible for because he knowingly underreported his taxable income for tax years 2012 through 2015. Mr. Ahmed also allegedly underreported his household income on his property tax refund forms allowing him to claim larger property tax refunds for tax years 2012 through 2014. Department investigators determined that Mr. Ahmed owes the state more than \$20,000.

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.

Although most taxpayers comply with tax laws voluntarily, the department takes enforcement action against noncompliant taxpayers to ensure that tax laws are administered fairly.

Many of the department’s criminal case referrals come from public tips. There is 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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