

News Release

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Brooklyn Park tax preparer charged with multiple tax crimes

ST. PAUL, Minn. – The Minnesota Department of Revenue announced that the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office recently charged Gwehn Paul Quaye Sr., of Brooklyn Park, with 19 tax-related felonies.

Mr. Quaye was charged with 13 felony counts of knowingly preparing tax returns that were fraudulent or false, 4 counts of filing fraudulent income tax returns, 1 count of failing to file an individual income tax return, and 1 count of failing to pay income tax.

Mr. Quaye operated a tax preparation business between 2013 and 2017, according to the complaint. Mr. Quaye knowingly placed false information such as fraudulent business expenses and inflated unreimbursed employee expenses on his clients’ tax returns in order to reduce their taxable income and increase their refunds, the complaint states. Through his actions, Mr. Quaye allegedly defrauded the state of more than \$400,000 resulting in an average tax bill of over \$4,000 for his clients who were audited.

Additionally, according to the complaint, Mr. Quaye filed false income tax returns from 2013 through 2016 that failed to include income he received working as a tax preparer. He also failed to file his own income tax return and failed to pay income tax in 2017. Mr. Quaye allegedly owes nearly \$19,000 in tax, 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.

Although the department does not certify tax preparers, state law requires tax professionals who prepare income tax returns to follow standards of ethics and conduct. The majority of tax professionals abide by these standards and provide honest service and sound advice to their clients. In the rare event that a tax professional does not comply with these standards, they may be subject to penalties or criminal prosecution and may be barred from representing clients before the department. Taxpayers can report unprofessional conduct by [contacting the department](#) at 651-296-3781.

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More information on choosing a preparer is [available on our website](#) or by searching **Tax preparer** in the Search box.

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.

Get the latest news and updates from the Minnesota Department of Revenue by following the department on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) or by signing up for our [email subscription list](#).

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