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Waukesha Man Could Face 40 Years in Prison for Tax Fraud

Criminal charges have been filed in Waukesha County Circuit Court against Michael L. Gengler, 37, of Mukwonago. Gengler is charged with filing fraudulent Wisconsin income tax returns for 2005-2009. If Gengler is convicted and receives the maximum prison sentence on all five felony counts, he could face up to 40 years in prison and \$50,000 in fines.

According to the criminal complaint, in October 2009, Gengler was convicted on three counts of tax fraud and was sentenced to nine months in jail for failure to file his income tax returns for 2005, 2006 and 2007. He was placed on probation for two years and ordered to file all past and all future tax returns, as well as pay all taxes he owed.

Gengler has failed to file his tax returns and make his tax payments. The criminal complaint also states:

- In January 2011, Gengler told the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) that he was still gathering information to do his tax returns and that he had an accountant who would complete his returns by the end of February 2011.
- On March 25, 2011, he told DOR that he hoped to have his returns completed by April 15, 2011.
- On May 11, 2011, Gengler submitted his income tax returns listing zeros on every line of the return, indicating he had no income and no tax liability.

The DOR investigation showed that:

- During 2005-2007, Gengler actually worked as an electrical engineer where he earned more than \$88,000 each year during those years.
- He earned \$92,807 in 2008.
- He earned \$93,460 in 2009.
- Gengler also received a \$49,992 pension or retirement fund payment in 2009.

Gengler was charged by the Waukesha County District Attorney's Office after an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Section.

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