



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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Unity Business Owner Charged With State Tobacco and Alcohol Crimes

Criminal charges have been filed in Marathon County Circuit Court against Arthur G. Shaffer of Unity, Wisconsin for possession of unstamped cigarettes, distribution of tobacco products without a permit, cigarette tax evasion, tobacco products tax evasion, and operating his business without the presence of a licensed operator with respect to alcohol sales.

According to the criminal complaint, an investigation found that Shaffer had possessed cigarettes and tobacco products that did not bear the Wisconsin excise tax stamp. Wisconsin law requires that all cigarettes and tobacco products that come into Wisconsin for sale or distribution are subject to Wisconsin excise tax and must have stamps showing the tax has been paid before sale.

The complaint alleges that Shaffer had been selling the unstamped cigarettes and tobacco products from his Unity businesses, the Unity C-Store and Cubby Hole Tavern. During a one-year period, it is alleged that Shaffer evaded over \$10,000 in Wisconsin cigarette and tobacco products excise taxes.

The Department of Revenue works to ensure that all retailers comply with the law and are operating fairly. Unstamped cigarettes and tobacco products create an uneven playing field for the retailers who comply with state and federal laws.

If convicted on all five counts, Shaffer could face up to 2 ½ years in prison and \$22,200 in fines, or both.

This case was investigated by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Alcohol & Tobacco Enforcement Unit. The case is being prosecuted by the Marathon County District Attorney's office.

The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The prosecution must prove its allegations at trial.

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