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**For Immediate Release**

August 20, 2020

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## Ashland Woman Sentenced to Prison for Embezzlement and Tax Crimes

Jill Kozitza, a former bookkeeper, was sentenced in Ashland County to a total of eighteen years in the Wisconsin State Prison System for felony charges of theft in a business setting over \$10,000, filing a fraudulent tax return, forgery, and fraudulent writings.

Between March of 2014 and March of 2018, she wrote over 140 unauthorized checks to herself, totaling almost \$229,000, from her employer's accounts, forged the owner's signature, and concealed the actual payee of the check by altering records in her employer's accounting program. In addition to the theft, forgery, and fraudulent writings, Kozitza filed false income tax returns for the years 2013-2017 by omitting taxable income, ranging from \$24,820.50 to \$105,081.99 per year. In doing so, Kozitza evaded over \$18,000 in taxes.

On January 21, 2020, Kozitza pleaded no contest and was found guilty of one count of theft, one count of filing a false tax return, nine counts of forgery, and three counts of fraudulent writings. Various other counts were dismissed but read in as part of a plea agreement.

On August 17, 2020, an Ashland County Court sentenced Kozitza to three years confinement in prison followed by three years supervision by the Department of Corrections for the theft charge. For the other charges, Kozitza's sentence was withheld and she will be on probation for fifteen years following her three-year initial confinement prison sentence. Kozitza was also ordered to pay \$223,342.54 to her former employer and \$18,069 to the state of Wisconsin.

The case was investigated by the Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation and prosecuted by the Ashland County District Attorney's Office. The Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation investigates individuals suspected of committing tax crimes and actively seeks criminal prosecution for tax crimes.

To report tax fraud, go to the DOR website at [www.revenue.wi.gov](http://www.revenue.wi.gov) and click the "Report tax fraud" link under Quick Links.

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