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Reedsville Man Charged with Theft and Tax Fraud

Matthew Buchholz of Reedsville, Wisconsin was recently charged in Manitowoc County Circuit Court with one felony count of theft (>\$10,000 - \$100,000), three counts of filing a false or fraudulent state income tax return for tax years 2017 through 2019 and one felony count of theft - false representation.

According to the [criminal complaint](#), Buchholz stole lottery tickets worth between \$10,000 and \$100,000 from his place of employment and defrauded the Wisconsin Lottery. Buchholz then collected the winnings from the stolen tickets and failed to report any of this income on his income tax returns. The unreported income came from winnings on lottery tickets and the cost of the lottery tickets that were stolen. The complaint alleges that Buchholz filed tax returns and understated income by more than \$300,500, evading over \$20,000 in Wisconsin income tax.

Under Wisconsin law, theft, filing a false or fraudulent income tax return, and theft – false representation are all felonies. If convicted on all counts, Buchholz faces a maximum penalty of up to 31 years and six months in prison and/or \$65,000 in fines.

Buchholz is being prosecuted by the Manitowoc County District Attorney's Office following an investigation by the Reedsville Police Department, Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation and Department of Revenue Division of Lottery.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue Office of Criminal Investigation investigates individuals and businesses suspected of committing tax crimes and seeks criminal prosecution for those crimes.

To report tax fraud, go to www.revenue.wi.gov and click the "Report tax fraud" link under Quick Links.

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