

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL LISA MADIGAN

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MADIGAN: DUPAGE MAN ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF FRAUD, THEFT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a DuPage County man was arrested on charges of theft and tax fraud for allegedly stealing over \$391,000.

Tale Aburukbeh, 37, of DuPage County was indicted this week in DuPage County Circuit Court on charges of Theft of Government Property over \$100,000, a class X non-probationable felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison; Sales Tax Evasion over \$100,000, a class 1 felony punishable by up to four to 15 years in prison; Sales Tax Evasion over \$10,000, a class 2 felony punishable by up to three to seven years in prison; Filing a Fraudulent Sales Tax Return, a class 3 felony punishable by up to two to five years in prison; and Wire Fraud, a class 3 felony punishable by up to two to five years in prison.

Aburukbeh managed a business named Valentina #1 in Glendale Heights, which also operated under the name Valentine Tobacco Shop. Madigan alleged that between Aug. 2011 and July 2014, Aburukbeh filed fraudulent sales tax returns understating the business' sales tax liability in the amount of over \$391,000.

“This should send a message to people who try to defraud the state by lying about their tax liability, you will suffer the consequences,” said Madigan

Aburukbeh's bond was set at \$250,000, and his next court appearance will be Sept. 1.

The investigation was conducted by the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

“I commend the efforts of both Revenue's Criminal Investigation Division, as well as the Attorney General's office for remaining vigilant in efforts to investigate and prosecute tax fraud in Illinois,” said Connie Beard, Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. “The hard work of all involved in the Aburukbeh indictment sends a clear message that we take allegations of tax fraud seriously.”

Assistant Attorneys General M. Claire Lusher and Anshuman Vaidya are handling the case for Madigan's Special Prosecutions Bureau.

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.