



For Immediate Release
December 7, 2016

Contact: Terry Horstman
217.558.2953

DUPAGE BUSINESSMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX FRAUD

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a DuPage County businessman pleaded guilty and was sentenced to prison for defrauding the state out of nearly \$400,000.

Tale Aburukbeh, 37, of Chicago, pleaded guilty to filing fraudulent sales tax returns and was sentenced to two years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. He was ordered to surrender by Jan. 17, 2017. Aburukbeh was also ordered to pay \$392,160 in restitution to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

In 2015, Madigan's office charged Aburukbeh while he managed a Glendale Heights tobacco shop called Valentina #1, which also operated as Valentine Tobacco Shop. Between August 2011 and July 2014, Aburukbeh filed fraudulent sales tax returns with the state, underreporting millions of dollars in sales.

"This business owner illegally pocketed sales tax money that should have gone to the state to benefit Illinois residents who rely on important state programs," Madigan said.

The investigation was conducted by the IDOR's Criminal Investigations Division and referred to Madigan's office for prosecution.

"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 Nicholson and Anshuman Vaidya handled the case for Madigan's Special Prosecutions Bureau.