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August 9, 2017

MADIGAN CHARGES ROCK ISLAND BUSINESS OWNER WITH THEFT & TAX FRAUD FOR DEFRAUDING THE STATE

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced charges against a Rock Island County business owner for stealing more than \$330,000 in sales tax revenue by forging tax documents to steal from customers.

Vickie Brown, 61, of Milan, Ill., was charged in Rock Island County with theft, fraud, forgery and failure to remit state taxes paid by customers of Milan License Inc., 133 W. First Ave. in Milan, which offers licensing and tax filing services for cars, boats and other equipment. Madigan alleged that Brown forged Illinois tax documents to steal more than \$330,000 in state tax revenue that consumers believed they were paying to the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR).

Milan License provides tax, title and licensing services to customers who purchase cars, boats, RVs and other equipment outside of Illinois. Madigan alleged that between January 2014 and June 2016, Brown knowingly prepared fraudulent sales tax returns that included false deductions and exceptions that did not apply. She then billed her customers for the full tax bill and kept the difference.

"This business owner stole from the state and took advantage of customers who paid her to help them meet their tax obligations," Madigan said. "We will continue to investigate and prosecute people and businesses that defraud the state of Illinois."

The investigation was conducted by the IDOR's Criminal Investigations Division.

"Whenever allegations of tax fraud come to light, it is important that we examine their validity and act accordingly," said Connie Beard, IDOR Director. "I commend the job performed by the Department of Revenue's Criminal Investigations Unit, as well as the work currently being done by the Attorney General's office regarding this matter."

Brown is scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 29. The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General Alexis Overstreet is handling the case for Madigan's Special Prosecutions Bureau.

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