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State charges pest control operator with felony theft of sales tax

SEATTLE, WA – May 20, 2013 – A Seattle pest control contractor was charged today with the theft of more than \$30,000 in retail sales tax he collected from clients but never turned over to the state.

The Washington State Attorney General's office filed the charge against Calvin D. Gilpin, 58, in King County Superior Court on behalf of the Washington State Department of Revenue. Gilpin, sole proprietor and owner of 4 Seasons Pest Control, was also charged with nine counts of operating a business with a revoked registration.

Gilpin opened 4 Seasons Pest Control in 1991 and legitimately operated in the Seattle area until August 2010, when Revenue revoked his business registration for not paying taxes.

When Revenue contacted Gilpin in June 2011, he confirmed that he had been doing business without the required registration. He also acknowledged Revenue's warning that doing so was a felony. The following month, Revenue staff met with Gilpin to again go over the revocation.

According to invoices he provided Revenue, Gilpin continued accepting jobs from August 2010 through October 2011 without the proper state certification, all while pocketing the retail sales tax.

If convicted of Class B felony, Gilpin could face a maximum penalty of \$20,000 and ten years in prison.

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