

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

April 4, 2003

Baldwin County Video Store Owner Convicted on State Tax Evasion Charges; Receives Jail Time

Montgomery, April 4, 2003— A Baldwin County video store owner was convicted on felony sales tax evasion charges April 4, 2003, in Baldwin County Circuit Court, announced State Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle.

David Bryan, 46, owner of M&M Video Store, located at 32021 U.S. Highway 98 in Lillian, Ala., pleaded guilty Friday before Circuit Judge J. Langford Floyd to one count of sales tax evasion covering the tax periods from Sept. 1, 1996, through July 31, 2002.

According to the indictment, in an attempt to evade paying over \$80,000 in state sales taxes, Bryan intentionally did not disclose over \$2 million in taxable video store receipts from Sept. 1, 1996, through July 31, 2002, from M&M Video Store and a formerly-owned business, C&J Video, located in Lillian, Ala.

Judge Floyd ordered Bryan to complete a 27-month jail term for his tax crimes and pay \$159,300 in sales taxes, penalties, and interest to the Department of Revenue. Judge Floyd also ordered Bryan to accurately account for, file and pay all future sales tax returns on a timely basis.

Commenting on the conviction, State Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle said, “The Department of Revenue will continue to pursue the discovery and prosecution of such criminal activities which attempt to undermine the state’s efforts in funding education. Tax evasion is costly to all involved, and the cost of tax offenses far outweighs any chance of personal gain. Convicted individuals face penalties and jail terms, but even more importantly, when tax evasion occurs, the Education Trust Fund

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(ETF) is short-changed because taxes are not properly paid. ETF provides the funding source for one of our state's most important responsibilities—the education of our children.”

Commissioner Carlisle also commended the Baldwin County District Attorney's Office in its successful prosecution of the case and ADOR Special Agent Randy Day and ADOR Examiners Jim Cronin and Melanie Bodiford in their successful handling of the case.

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Contact for more information:

ADOR Media Affairs Office: Carla A. Snellgrove or Carolyn Blackstock: (334) 242-1390; FAX: (334) 242-0550
www.ador.state.al.us.