

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release  
May 30, 2008

## Judge Hands Down Maximum \$100,000 Fine in State Tax Evasion Case

*Auburn*—Ricky Gene Haddock, 50, of 2037 Kirkland Drive, Auburn, Ala., pleaded guilty May 19, 2008, in Lee County Circuit Court to state tax charges filed by the Alabama Department of Revenue for income tax evasion and willful failure to pay Alabama business privilege taxes.

Lee County Circuit Judge Jacob Walker ordered Haddock to pay the maximum fine of \$100,000 for the charge of state income tax evasion and ordered Haddock to make restitution to the state of Alabama for tax, interest, and penalty amounts totaling over \$54,000. Judge Walker also ordered Haddock to serve a seven-year suspended jail term and a nine-year probationary period.

Haddock pleaded guilty to one count of state income tax evasion for calendar year 2001 and two counts of willful failure to pay business privilege tax for tax year 2001.

According to court records, Haddock owns and operates HDK, Inc., a towing company, Visions Collision Center, Inc., and Auburn Automotive Specialties, automotive body and mechanical repair businesses. All business locations are in the Auburn area.

“The fine imposed by Judge Walker is the largest criminal fine ever imposed under Alabama’s tax evasion laws and certainly sends a clear message to offenders. No one wants to pay more taxes than they have to, but it is not fair to those honest citizens who do pay their fair share to allow others to circumvent our tax laws and avoid taxes they rightly owe. In the long run, the cost of tax offenses far outweighs any chance of personal gain,” said Charles E. Crumbley, Investigations director of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

State income tax revenues are earmarked for the state’s Education Trust Fund (ETF) and are one of the major funding components for the ETF. Alabama Business Privilege tax revenues are earmarked for Alabama counties and the State General Fund.

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**Media contact for more information:** ADOR Media Affairs Office: Carla A. Snellgrove or Carolyn Blackstock: (334) 242-1390; FAX: (334) 242-0550; [www.revenue.alabama.gov](http://www.revenue.alabama.gov)