

Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release
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Judge Hands Down \$100,000 Fine in State Income Tax Case

Selma—Donald Ray Hogg Jr., 52, of 1008 Keith Way, Selma, Ala., pleaded guilty July 25, 2008, in Dallas County Circuit Court to state criminal tax charges for willful failure to file Alabama income tax returns.

Hogg pleaded guilty to two counts of willful failure to file his personal state income tax and two counts of willful failure to file corporate tax returns for tax years 2000 and 2001. According to court records, Hogg owns and operates Hogg Engineering Inc. in Selma, Ala.

Dallas County Circuit Judge Jack Meigs ordered Hogg to pay total fines of \$100,000 for these charges and to make restitution to the state of Alabama for tax, interest, and penalty amounts totaling over \$100,000. Judge Meigs sentenced Hogg to a one-year suspended jail term for each count and also placed him on a one-year probationary period for each count.

“The fine imposed by Judge Meigs is the second time in less than six months that a fine of this amount has ever been imposed under Alabama’s tax laws. It certainly sends a clear message to tax cheaters. 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 Tim Russell, Commissioner 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.

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