

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

Jan. 10, 2001

## Huntsville Optometrist Convicted for Tax Evasion

*Huntsville, Jan. 10, 2001*—A Madison County optometrist was convicted on state income tax evasion charges Jan. 8, 2001, in Madison County Circuit Court, announced State Revenue Commissioner Michael L. Patterson.

Daniel W. Placzek, 61, pleaded guilty Monday before Circuit Judge Joe Battle to one charge of state income tax evasion. This was the second time that Placzek has faced state criminal tax charges. In 1991, he was convicted on similar state tax charges.

Placzek was ordered by Judge Battle to pay \$56,000 in delinquent taxes and fraud penalties, plus accrued interest, for his failure to file state individual income tax returns for tax years 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997. Placzek's conviction also carried a five-year jail sentence, suspended, with the exception of 12 days' actual jail time that will be served by Placzek in the Madison County jail on weekends through work release, beginning in February. Judge Battle also sentenced Placzek to five years of supervised probation, during which Placzek must provide evidence each year to his probation officer, showing that he has filed Alabama income tax returns.

Commenting on the conviction, State Revenue Commissioner Michael Patterson commended the Madison County District Attorney's Office in its prosecution of the case and Department of Revenue Investigations Agent Angela Aldridge and Examiner Patricia Wilborn in their handling of the case.

"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 possible jail terms,

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but even more importantly, when tax evasion occurs, the Education Trust Fund (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,” said Commissioner Patterson.

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