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News Release

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Syracuse man sentenced For evasion of state taxes

A 54-year old Syracuse man has been ordered to pay \$52,837 plus interest in back taxes and penalties for evasion of state income taxes.

Douglas A. Richins, a professional truck driver, pleaded guilty to tax evasion, a third degree felony, and was sentenced in 3rd District Court Monday, February 26.

The Utah State Tax Commission investigated the case and the Attorney General's office prosecuted.

Judge Robin W. Reese suspended the prison sentence not to exceed five years and ordered Richins to pay a minimum of \$1,140 monthly and work 100 community service hours. Richins was also placed on three years probation.

"When people evade paying state income taxes they are stealing money directly from our school children," said Charlie Roberts, public information officer for the Tax Commission. "In Utah, all state income taxes go directly to the state education fund."

Investigators determined that Richins failed to pay state income taxes from 2000 through 2005.

Roberts said the State rigorously investigates and prosecutes those who fail to pay their fair share of state income taxes.