



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Geraldine Conrad  
312/814-0097

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## Stepped Up Enforcement to Collect Business Taxes in Arrears

### **Businesses Operating with Revoked Certificates of Registration Targeted**

**CHICAGO** – Investigators from the Illinois Department of Revenue Bureau of Criminal investigations and Collection field staff teamed together to enforce revocations of certificates of registration. Revenue collected almost \$200,000 from 15 businesses in 30 days in Cook County and 80% of these businesses now are on payment plans. The BCI agents advised owners of possible arrest if they continue to operate. Due process mandates a 35-day period after service of the notice of decision before they can be charged. Revenue is conferring with the Attorney General’s office on follow up for those businesses that do not comply.

Any business that must register for sales tax remittance is vulnerable to having its business registration revoked for failure to pay any tax it may owe the state if it is at least \$1,000 in arrears. Those who continue to operate can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor. Revenue contacts a business that its registration is subject to revocation because of past due taxes and gives them a hearing date to adjudicate this revocation.

“Businesses must pay their taxes and cannot blatantly ignore Department of Revenue directives while continuing to operate,” states Director Brian Hamer. “A registration revocation means cease business and we want businesses to fulfill their fiscal obligations to the state and their fellow citizens,” Hamer adds. Businesses are subject to bank levies, seizures and other enforcement actions if they do not contact Revenue to arrange payment plans.