



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Special Agent in Charge Kathy A. Enstrom*

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LOCAL MAN SENTENCED FOR OBTAINING FALSE INCOME TAX REFUNDS

CINCINNATI, OHIO -- Charles Robinson, 43, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to twelve months and one day in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$135,137 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for conspiring to file false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS. Robinson pleaded guilty to the aforementioned charge on February 12, 2013,

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the sentence handed down today by U.S. District Judge Michael R. Barrett.

According to court documents, between January 2008 and September 2010, Charles Robinson conspired with Bertha Walker in a scheme to defraud the IRS by obtaining the payment of false claims for federal income tax refunds for the 2007, 2008, and 2009 income tax years.

Robinson solicited and assisted others in falsely claiming income tax refunds through the preparation and submission of fraudulent income tax returns. Walker prepared and electronically filed the income tax returns through various online tax preparation websites, using computers at the Cincinnati Public Library and her own laptop computer. Walker submitted false Forms W-2 reporting fictitious wages and federal withholdings from legitimate businesses without the businesses' knowledge or consent. The fictitious income and federal withholding amounts that were claimed on the income tax returns qualified the taxpayers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Making Work Pay Credit which they would not have been ordinarily entitled to claim.

As a result of the false claims for income tax refunds that were filed pursuant to this conspiracy, Tax Refund Anticipation Loan checks, income tax refund checks, and prepaid debit cards containing fraudulent income tax refunds were mailed to addresses controlled by Robinson and Walker. Robinson escorted the individuals to check cashing locations throughout Cincinnati, Ohio area to cash their Tax Refund Anticipation Loan checks or income tax refund checks. Robinson and Walker collected a large portion of the false income tax refunds that were generated by this scheme, and in some cases the taxpayers did not receive any portion of their income tax refund because Robinson and Walker kept the entire amount of the income tax refund without the taxpayer's knowledge or consent.

In addition, some of the income tax refunds that were issued through this scheme were deposited into bank accounts owned and controlled by Robinson and Walker. Specifically, Robinson deposited eleven

income tax refund checks into his bank account that were fraudulently endorsed by others without the taxpayer's knowledge or consent.

By conspiring with Walker in this scheme, Robinson obtained and aided in obtaining the payment of approximately 73 false claims for income tax refunds that falsely claimed approximately \$135,137 from the IRS.

Walker pleaded guilty on January 22, 2014 to one count of conspiracy to file false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS and to one count of identity theft. A sentencing date has not been set.

"The object of this scheme was to defraud the government and the taxpaying public," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "Refunds are issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them, and at the IRS protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take very seriously."

This case was prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Anne L. Porter and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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