



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
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FORMER H&R BLOCK RETURN PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY IN FALSE INCOME TAX REFUND SCHEME

DAYTON, OHIO – Zakia Moore, 33, of Trotwood, Ohio, pleaded guilty to one count of making false claims for federal income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Moore faces a maximum of 5 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

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 guilty plea entered February 19 before U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

According to court documents, between January 2009 and April 2010 Moore knowingly made false claims for income tax refunds with the IRS. Moore, while employed at H & R Block in Dayton, Ohio, filed false federal income tax returns on behalf of individuals that were customers at H & R Block or individuals that had been referred to her. These fraudulent income tax returns contained false Forms W-2 or false income amounts reported on the Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business.

Moore filed these income tax returns knowing that the Forms W-2 or income amounts on the Schedule C were fraudulent, and that the income tax credits and income tax refunds claimed on the income tax returns were fraudulent. Moore was personally responsible for preparing some of the false Forms W-2 and income amounts on the Schedule C of the income tax returns.

The individuals on whose behalf Moore filed the income tax returns did not earn near the amount of income that was reported on their income tax returns. Moore had the individuals pay her a portion of the fraudulent income tax refund as a "fee" for her services of filing the fraudulent income tax returns.

In total, Moore filed approximately 89 false income tax returns between January 2009 and April 2010, resulting in an actual loss to the United States of approximately \$212,195.

Moore was released on bond and a sentencing date was set for Friday, May 23, 2014 before Judge Rose.

"Tax return preparers have a duty to their clients to prepare tax returns that comply with the law and are accurate," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "IRS Criminal Investigation stands ready to investigate anyone who would put a taxpayer at risk for a quick profit."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Alex R. Sistla and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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