



PRESS RELEASE

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

DAYTON, OHIO – Zakia Moore, 33, of Trotwood, Ohio, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$212,195 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for making false claims for federal income tax refunds with IRS. Moore previously pleaded guilty to this charge on February 19, 2014.

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 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.

"Zakia Moore wreaked havoc on the integrity of our tax system in a very short period of time," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "Dishonest return preparers use a variety of methods to cheat the government, including falsifying information on the tax returns to generate larger refunds for their clients. It is our hope that today's sentence sends the strong message that tampering with the integrity of our nation's tax system will result in jail time."

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

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