



PRESS RELEASE

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

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Contact: Craig Casserly
IRS – Criminal Investigation
401 N. Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 744-3130
Craig.casserly@ci.irs.gov
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LOCAL INCOME TAX PREPARER SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE CLAIMS FOR INCOME TAX REFUNDS

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Mark Dicks, 48, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to 15 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$350,478 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for filing false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS. Dicks previously pleaded guilty to this charge on February 25, 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 Senior U.S. District Judge Herman J. Weber.

According to court documents, between January 2009 and January 2010, Dicks operated Brown and Garcia Tax Service and EZ Tax Service located in Cincinnati, Ohio. For the 2008 and 2009 income tax years, Dicks filed false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS.

The majority of the income tax returns prepared and electronically filed by Dicks for his clients contained false Schedule C's, Profit or Loss from Business. The self-employment income claimed on the Schedule C's was from occupations such as child care, hair care, cleaning, janitorial, and clerical. Most of Dicks' clients had little or no legitimate income. By preparing income tax returns with false Schedule C's, Dicks' clients were able to qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, which caused his clients to receive income tax refunds they were not entitled, or to receive falsely inflated income tax refunds.

Dicks prepared the false income tax returns with the intention of receiving part of his client's false income tax refunds. The majority of the false income tax refunds were deposited onto prepaid debit cards. This allowed for Dicks to retrieve a portion of his client's false income tax refunds. Dicks activated the prepaid debit cards and withdrew his funds before providing his clients with the remaining balance of the false income tax refunds.

In total, Dicks caused at least 92 false claims for income tax refunds to be filed with the IRS, resulting in a tax loss of \$350,478.

"IRS Criminal Investigation stands ready to investigate anyone who would put a taxpayer at risk for a quick profit," stated Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "Our special agents use their investigative and financial expertise to detect and hold accountable abusive tax return preparers who falsely tell taxpayers they are eligible for tax credits that they are not entitled to receive."

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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