



PRESS RELEASE

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Casa Grande Tax Return Preparer Sentenced to Prison

PHOENIX, Arizona – On September 10, 2014, Haydee Guerra Neff of Casa Grande, Ariz., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell to 18 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release. Neff was ordered to pay \$435,280 in restitution to the United States Department of the Treasury. On June 10, 2014, Neff pleaded guilty to two counts of Filing False, Fictitious and Fraudulent Claims.

Neff, a tax return preparer in Casa Grande, filed false income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service for the tax years 2010 and 2011. Neff admitted to preparing correct or substantially correct returns using the information provided by each client and later changing the return without the client's knowledge or consent. The client was then provided with the correct or substantially correct tax return, but Neff would file with the IRS the false tax returns which contained false expenses and the resulting requests for inflated refunds.

According to her plea agreement, Neff submitted at least 26 false tax returns to the IRS which resulted in approximately \$137,009 in additional refunds which were then diverted all or in part to bank accounts under her control. The IRS identified 90 additional tax returns prepared by Neff that resulted in up to \$298,271 in additional false claims.

The investigation in this case was conducted by Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

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