



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
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SECOND OF THREE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED IN A FALSE INCOME TAX REFUND SCHEME

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Danita Riston, 47, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$66,917 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for conspiring to file false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS. Riston previously pleaded guilty to this charge on December 3, 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 Senior U.S. District Judge Herman J. Weber.

According to court documents, between January 2007 and February 2010 Riston prepared and electronically filed false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS for the 2006 through 2009 income tax years. As part of this scheme, Riston included wholly false information on the income tax returns, with the exception of the taxpayers name and social security number.

Riston agreed with the individuals to prepare their income tax returns. Riston collected the individual's name, social security number, date of birth, address, and the social security number for a person they could claim as a dependent. In return, Riston promised the taxpayers a large income tax refund. Riston, as well as many of the taxpayers, knew that the income tax returns filed with the IRS were false and that the income tax refunds were fraudulent.

Riston directed the income tax refunds to be directly deposited into one of several banks accounts she either owned or controlled. Riston acquired co-signature authority on her mother's bank account and directed fraudulent income tax refunds to be deposited into that account, as well as her own account. Once Riston received the fraudulent income tax refunds, she provided a portion of the income tax refund proceeds to the taxpayer and kept the remainder for herself.

Riston's participation in the conspiracy directly resulted in an intended tax loss to the IRS in the amount of \$68,717. For purpose of restitution, the actual tax loss to the IRS as a result of Riston's involvement in this scheme was \$66,917.

On June 11, 2014 Kimberly Riston, 49, of Cincinnati, Ohio, was sentenced by Senior U.S. District Judge Herman J. Weber to one day in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$22,305 in restitution to the IRS for conspiring to file false claims for federal income tax refunds with the IRS.

Tanisha Riston, 39, of Cincinnati, pleaded guilty on January 22, 2014 to one count of conspiracy to file false claims for income tax refunds with the IRS and to one count of making false statements in a Bankruptcy. She is scheduled to be sentenced on September 3, 2014.

"The defendants who perpetrated this scheme systematically defrauded the government and the taxpaying public," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take very seriously. IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to vigorously pursue those who unjustly enrich themselves by preparing false claims for refunds."

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jessica W. Knight and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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