



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Cincinnati Field Office
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LOCAL MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING 116 FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS, IDENTITY THEFT

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Antoine Rogers, 35, of Cincinnati, Ohio, pleaded guilty one count of aggravated identity theft and to one count of theft of government property. Rogers faces a maximum of ten years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, plus an additional two years in prison relative to the aggravated identity theft charge that will run consecutive to any sentence imposed by the court.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the guilty plea entered before Chief U.S. District Judge Susan J. Dlott.

According to court documents, between June 2010 and November 2012, Rogers prepared and electronically filed approximately 116 false federal income tax returns with the IRS from various locations within Cincinnati, Ohio, a portion of which were filed without the taxpayer's knowledge or consent, resulting in the unlawful use of the individual's means of identification. Rogers directed that the false income tax refunds be paid either by direct deposit into his bank accounts or onto prepaid debit cards that he controlled.

The false income tax returns contained fraudulent items such as, Household Help Income and the American Opportunity Credit, which Rogers knew the taxpayers were not entitled to or had not received. In fact, Rogers prepared his own 2009 through 2011 personal income tax returns claiming false amounts of Household Help Income and false American Opportunity Credits.

For the 2009 through 2011 income tax years, Rogers caused an actual loss to the IRS in the amount of \$408,535.

"Individuals who commit refund fraud and identity theft of this magnitude and with this degree of trickery, dishonesty and deceit, deserve to be punished to the fullest extent of the law," said Kathy A. Enstrom, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office.

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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