



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Acting Special Agent in Charge Troy N. Stemen*

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LOCAL WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT CASE

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- Kelly L. Sims, 24, of Columbus, Ohio, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court today to one count each of aggravated identity theft and wire fraud in a scheme to defraud the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Sims faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine and aggravated identity theft carries a two year mandatory sentence in addition to any sentence imposed.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Troy N. Stemen, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office, announced the plea entered into today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Norah McCann King.

According to court documents, between December 2014 and March 2015, Sims engaged in a scheme to defraud the IRS by preparing and filing fraudulent income tax returns with the IRS on behalf of individuals for whom she had obtained their personal identification information. The identities used in this scheme previously had been stolen from a Kentucky Department of Income and Support database as part of a similar fraud scheme involving Sims' husband, Roma Sims. The stolen personal identification information of 120 individuals was used in this fraud scheme.

At least 70 income tax returns were electronically filed with the IRS resulting in the issuance of false income tax refunds. In total, the intended loss related to this fraud scheme was between \$118,369 and \$360,707. The actual loss to the government was \$40,966.

On August 21, 2014 Roma L. Sims, of Westerville, Ohio was sentenced to 100 months in prison, three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$3,517,535 in restitution to the IRS for committing aggravated identity theft and wire fraud and for conspiring to commit identity theft.

"This unscrupulous defendant thought she had figured out a clever scheme to thwart the IRS and steal from American taxpayers," said Troy N. Stemen, Acting Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "The IRS has made investigating refund fraud and identity theft a top priority and we will vigorously pursue those who undermine the integrity of the U.S. tax system."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Daniel Brown and was investigated by special agents of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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