



PRESS RELEASE

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

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LOCAL INCOME TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY IN SCHEME TO DEFRAUD HIS CLIENTS

DAYTON, OHIO – Dwain Fansler, 51, of Kettering, Ohio pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud relative to a scheme to defraud his tax preparation clients by keeping a portion of their income tax refunds without their knowledge. Fansler faces a maximum of 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

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 guilty plea entered U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Rose.

According to court documents, between February 2011 and March 2014 Fansler devised a scheme to defraud his tax preparation clients and the IRS. Fansler was the sole member and owner of Dwain Fansler BBA ATA, LLC located in Kettering, Ohio. Fansler electronically filed federal income tax returns on behalf of his clients and directed the IRS to deposit all of or a portion of his clients' income tax refunds, without the knowledge or authorization of his clients, into bank accounts which he controlled. Fansler filed these income tax returns knowing that his clients did not authorize him to divert all of or a portion of their income tax refunds into his bank accounts. Fansler concealed his scheme by providing copies of the income tax returns to his clients that reflected a lower income tax refund than the actual income tax return that was filed with the IRS. Unlike the income tax returns filed with the IRS, the copies of the income tax returns that Fansler provided his clients did not show that part of their income tax refund had been diverted to bank accounts in Fansler's control.

In total, Fansler filed approximately six hundred fifty-seven (657) returns for four hundred twenty-one (421) clients that resulted in a total tax loss in the amount of \$458,889 to his clients.

"IRS Criminal Investigation stands ready to investigate anyone who would put a taxpayer at risk for a quick profit," said Troy N. Stemen, Acting Special Agent in Charges, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "At the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

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

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