



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation Cincinnati Field Office *Acting Special Agent in Charge Guy A. Ficco*

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LOCAL WOMAN INDICTED IN INCOME TAX REFUND SCAM

COLUMBUS, OHIO -- A federal grand jury here has indicted Alia M. Lee, 45, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio charging her with 26 counts of filing false claims for income tax refunds with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio and Guy A. Ficco, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office announced the indictment that was returned today.

According to the indictment, between February 2011 and April 2014, Lee allegedly filed false claims for income tax refunds by preparing and filing false income tax returns on behalf of other individuals for 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 seeking unwarranted income tax refunds through the use of fraudulent Forms W-2 or Forms Schedule C, false claims for education credits, and/or false income tax withholdings.

The indictment alleges that Lee filed over \$185,000 in false refund claims with the IRS.

Filing false claims with for tax refunds with the IRS carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

"Law abiding citizens expect the government to hold accountable those who use deceit and fraud to line their pockets with money, especially when that money represents stolen federal taxes," stated Guy A. Ficco, Acting Special Agent in Charges, IRS Criminal Investigation, Cincinnati Field Office. "No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall, and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them."

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

An indictment merely contains allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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