



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
Detroit Field Office  
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Date: August 27, 2014

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CI Release #: DETFO-2014-01

## **Detroit resident sentenced for the preparation of false tax returns**

**Detroit, MI** – Gerald L. Hawk, Jr., 29, a Detroit tax preparer, was sentenced in federal court to 18 months imprisonment followed by two years supervised release as a result of a guilty plea for preparing false income tax returns announced Jarod Koopman, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

Koopman was joined in the announcement by Barbara McQuade, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.

The sentence was handed down by United States District Court Judge Nancy Edmunds on August 19, 2014. In addition to the prison sentence, Hawk was ordered to pay restitution for the full amount of the fraudulent refunds obtained of over \$72,000.

According to court records, during 2009, Hawk prepared false income tax returns claiming the 2008 First Time Homebuyer Credit (FTHBC). The FTHBC was a credit for individuals who purchased a home during 2008 to receive up to \$8,000 upon filing their income tax returns. Hawk solicited clients by promising that he could acquire a tax refund of \$8,000 to purchase a home by receiving the FTHBC. Hawk knew the individuals did not purchase a home and had no intention of later purchasing a home after the credit was received. Hawk prepared or assisted in the preparation of approximately 21 false FTHBC tax returns claiming over \$147,000 in refunds.

"Most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients; however, an unscrupulous tax return preparer, such as Hawk, will file false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government. This costs the American taxpayers their hard earned tax dollars in the form of fraudulent refunds issued. It may also cost the clients themselves, for the clients are ultimately responsible for the repayment on the fraudulent refunds received as well as any associated penalties and interest, and may be exposed to potential criminal charges," said Acting Special Agent in Charge Jarod Koopman.

The case was investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ross MacKenzie.

For additional information about IRS Criminal Investigation, please visit [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).

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