



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
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## **Former Manager of a National Tax Preparation Store Sentenced to Twelve Months and One Day in Prison for Defrauding the IRS**

LOS ANGELES – A former manager of an H&R Block Preparation store has been sentenced to 12 months and one day in federal prison for using the identities of former tax preparation clients to file false returns with the Internal Revenue Service seeking fraudulent income tax refunds.

Damon Charles Dubose, 40, of North Hills, was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge Dale S. Fischer.

Dubose pleaded guilty in March to one count of wire fraud and one count of filing false claims with the Internal Revenue Service. The court sentenced defendant to 12 months and one day on each count of conviction to be served concurrently.

According to documents filed with the court, working as a manager of an H&R Block Preparation store in Van Nuys, Dubose used his access to H&R Block records to obtain the personal identifying information, which included names, dates of birth, and social security numbers, of H&R Block clients. Dubose then used this personal identifying information to create and submit to the IRS at least 12 false and unauthorized 2011 tax returns in order to generate fraudulent tax refunds of at least \$48,593.

Dubose filed the returns so that the refunds would be accessible by the “H&R Block Emerald Card,” a pre-loaded Master Card. Dubose then used the H&R Block Emerald Cards at automated teller machines (ATMs) to withdraw as cash the fraudulent tax refunds.

On February 16, 2012, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputies found Dubose standing near ATM machines wearing a beanie, a scarf and panty hose on his face, used presumably to disguise his appearance. The deputies arrested Dubose after they recovered from his vehicle six envelopes with handwritten names and partial social security numbers that contained H&R Block information sheets and H&R Block Emerald cards; ATM withdrawal receipts; a printout that contained 12 social security numbers and dates of birth corresponding to the names and numbers on the envelope; and \$4,078.16 in cash.

The wire fraud count stems from Dubose electronically transferring an unauthorized tax return from Van Nuys, California to Tennessee or West Virginia. The false claim count stems from an unauthorized tax return filed by Dubose on February 6, 2012 for an individual using fabricated information to falsely claim a refund in the amount of \$4,353.

The investigation of Dubose was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation's Los Angeles Field Office, with assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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