



NEWS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation

Las Vegas Field Office

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Laughlin, Nevada Woman Sentenced for Filing False Returns

Laughlin, NV – Maria Garcia, age 51 of Laughlin, Nevada was sentenced December 8, 2014 by U.S. District Court Judge James C. Mahan to 18 months in prison, one year probation, and required to pay \$9,602 in restitution to the Internal Revenue Service. Garcia pleaded guilty on September 9, 2014, to filing false tax returns.

The plea agreement resulted from an indictment filed on December 11, 2013. According to the plea agreement, Maria Garcia admitted to preparing a false return which claimed two nieces as dependents. Garcia knew the taxpayer did not provide the financial support required to claim the dependents in accordance with internal revenue laws. Garcia also admitted that if the case were to proceed to trial, the Government would be able to prove that she was responsible for a tax loss of \$109,906 as a result of other false and fraudulent tax returns she willfully prepared or directed to be prepared by employees on behalf of her clients.

According to the indictment Garcia used Electronic Filing Identification Numbers (EFINs) and Preparer Tax Identification Numbers (PTINs) assigned to other tax preparers to file tax returns on behalf of clients after the IRS revoked her EFINs for filing multiple fraudulent tax returns on behalf of Clients. She also, according to the indictment offered to pay other tax preparers for the use of their EFINs and PTINs and then sent to the Internal Revenue Service fraudulent Individual Tax Returns, form 1040s for the Calendar years 2007 through 2011, which claimed tax refunds, when she then and there well knew that her clients were not entitled to tax refunds in the amounts claimed.

“Claiming dependents, deductions or credits on a tax return that you are not entitled to for the sole purpose of receiving a tax refund is against the law. Maria Garcia is going to spend 18 months in jail for preparing fraudulent tax returns for her clients. Tax preparers will be held accountable for violating the Federal tax laws and the consequences of such schemes can and will result in jail time. The clients may also be required to adjust their tax returns and pay back taxes, penalties and interest causing the clients hardships. The public should exercise care when choosing a tax return preparer. If the tax preparer advertises they can get their clients refunds that appear to be too good to be true, the client should proceed with caution,” said John Collins, Special Agent in Charge of IRS-Criminal Investigation’s Las Vegas Field Office.

The case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney Office in Las Vegas with the assistance of IRS-Criminal Investigation.

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