



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen

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CUMBERLAND COUNTY TAX PREPARER INDICTED FOR PREPARING FRAUDULENT TAX RETURNS FOR CLIENTS

Camden, N.J. –The operator of Pender Tax Services, LLC, a tax preparation business located in Rosenhayn, N.J., has been indicted by a federal grand jury on one count of conspiracy to defraud the Internal Revenue Service and nine counts of preparing fraudulent tax returns for clients.

According to the indictment:

Noemi Pender, a resident of Rosenhayn, N.J., was employed as a tax preparer and operated Pender Tax Services. For the tax years 2007 through 2011, it is alleged that Pender conspired with others to prepare fraudulent tax returns for clients by claiming false filing statuses, fabricating and inflating itemized deductions, fabricating and inflating child and dependent care expenses, fabricating and inflating education expenses and falsely claiming dependent children that had been fabricated by Pender and her co-conspirators. By falsifying this information, Pender and her co-conspirators were able to obtain tax refunds for clients greater than those they were lawfully entitled to receive. This enabled Pender Tax Services to generate increased referrals, enhance business and profit from the increase in business. It is alleged that these fraudulent tax returns caused a tax loss to the government of over \$340,000.

“The allegations in the indictment against Ms. Pender should serve as a reminder on how important it is when choosing a tax preparer”, stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few dishonest tax preparers file

false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government, the taxpaying public and their own clients."

If convicted, the count of conspiracy carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of five years and each count of preparing fraudulent tax returns carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of three years. Each of the counts in the indictment carries a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of: (1) \$250,000; (2) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain derived from the offense; or (3) twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss sustained by any victims of the offense.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The investigation was conducted by IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Jonathan D. Larsen and the U.S. Attorney's Office, under the direction of U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Smith.

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