



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
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TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO PREPARING FALSE TAX RETURNS FOR CLIENTS

Newark, N.J. – A self-employed tax preparer with an office in East Brunswick, N.J., pleaded guilty today to preparing false tax returns for clients.

Edward Winter, 51, entered his plea in Newark federal court before U. S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden. Sentencing is scheduled for December 7, 2015.

“Tax return preparers have a duty to their clients to prepare tax returns that comply with the law and are complete and accurate,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “Today’s guilty plea by Mr. Winter should serve as a reminder that IRS-Criminal Investigation takes these violations of law very seriously.”

According to court documents and statements made in court:

Winter was a self-employed tax preparer who met with clients at his office in East Brunswick, N.J. Winter prepared false and fraudulent tax returns for clients by, among other things, fabricating unreimbursed business expenses in order to obtain refunds for his clients in amounts greater than what they were legitimately entitled to receive.

Between February, 2009 and April, 2014, Winter prepared at least 21 federal individual income tax returns for clients that were fraudulent, causing the United States to issue refunds totaling \$77,022 to clients of Winter to which they were not entitled.

The charge of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of three years and 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 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 Daniel Shapiro.

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