



# PRESS RELEASE

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## Return Preparer Sentenced for Tax Fraud

### ***Investigation Reveals a Brooklyn, NY Return Preparer Falsified Tax Returns***

**MINNEAPOLIS** – IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Kelly R. Jackson announced today that in U.S. District Court Rotimi Williams and Ayo Aseph were sentenced for their roles in a scheme to defraud the United States by filing false tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Williams, at the center of the investigation, was sentenced to 14 months in prison, two years supervised release and \$69,799 in restitution.

In April, 2013, a Federal Grand Jury in Minneapolis indicted Williams and Aseph on charges of conspiracy and identity theft. Williams, a tax return preparer with an office in Brooklyn, New York, prepared false federal and Minnesota tax returns for individuals in the Twin Cities area from 2006 to 2010, including Aseph. He did so by using the same false names and social security numbers of children, whom he listed as dependents, on the tax returns of both Minnesota and New York clients.

Williams told customers they would lower their federal taxes and obtain a refund by including dependents on their tax returns, and Aseph helped Williams carry out his scheme. The Grand Jury indicted both Williams and Aseph on one count of conspiracy to obstruct the Internal Revenue Service and 12 counts of identity theft. In August Williams plead guilty to conspiracy and four counts of identity theft and acknowledged his scheme looted the United States Treasury of \$74,000 in fraudulent refunds.

This investigation was worked by Special Agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division in both Minnesota and New York. In a statement Jackson said “Tax filing season is upon us and this is a stern reminder to all taxpayers to not be fooled by someone offering a free lunch. Our tax system is based upon criteria set forth in the IRS code and intentional manipulation of that code to obtain a fraudulent refund can be met with very serious consequences. Please, be aware

of everything on your return and ensure it is correct because your signature is your word to the government that you are taking responsibility for its accuracy—period” Jackson added. Anyone with questions or concerns about their return is urged to contact the Internal Revenue Service for help and assistance.

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