



# PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
Newark Field Office  
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## **ESSEX COUNTY TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR PREPARING FRAUDULENT TAX RETURNS**

**Newark, N.J.** – An employee of an Irvington, N.J. based tax preparation business was sentenced today to six months in prison for preparing fraudulent tax returns.

U. S. District Judge Katharine S. Hayden also ordered Darlene Covington, 32, to serve one year of supervised release.

Previously, on July 19, 2016, Covington pleaded guilty to a one count superseding information that charged her with aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns.

“Knowingly falsifying documents filed with the IRS is a crime,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, some try to cheat the government as well as their clients and today Ms. Covington stands a convicted felon who must serve a term of imprisonment for her actions.”

According to court documents and statements made in court:

Covington was employed as a tax preparer at a tax preparation business, KCJ Financial Corp., located in Irvington, N.J. In her role as a tax preparer, Covington obtained personal identification information, such as names and social security numbers, for 24 people. Covington used this personal identification information without the knowledge, consent or permission of these individuals to prepare fraudulent tax returns. Covington prepared these fraudulent tax returns so that an uncharged co-conspirator would receive the refunds. Covington then used the filed false income tax returns to secure

Refund Anticipation Loans from various banks. Covington received a fee of \$235 for each Refund Anticipation Loan. The fraudulent tax returns resulted in a tax loss to the government of approximately \$106,732.

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 Sharon Ashe.

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