



PRESS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation
Newark Field Office
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Date: June 28, 2016

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CI Release #: NEWFO-2016-11

BERGEN COUNTY WOMAN ADMITS FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Newark, N.J. – A Bergen County resident pleaded guilty today to preparing fraudulent tax returns.

Sharon Ashby, 38, a resident of Fairview, N.J., entered her plea in Newark federal court before U. S. District Judge Susan D. Wigenton. Ashby pleaded guilty to one count of making false claims to the government. Sentencing is scheduled for October 4, 2016

“Refunds are issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them,” stated Jonathan D. Larsen, Special Agent in Charge, IRS-Criminal Investigation, Newark Field Office. “IRS Criminal Investigation will continue to aggressively pursue those who prepare false claims for refunds for the purpose of enriching themselves.”

According to court documents and statements made in court:

Ashby met with clients to obtain information and documents to prepare their tax returns. Ashby prepared false returns for clients by intentionally including fraudulent employment information on Forms W-2 showing the clients earning wages from employers where they were not employed or claiming deductions to which they were not entitled in order to generate false refunds. Ashby filed these fraudulent returns with the IRS electronically and kept a portion of the refunds for herself.

For the tax years 2010 through 2012, Ashby admitted that she prepared 48 fraudulent tax returns which caused the U.S. Treasury Department to issue refunds in the amount of \$238,877.

The count of filing false claims with the government carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of five 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 Meredith J. Williams.

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Linda Foster, Esq. – Federal Public Defender