



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias  
Northern District of Georgia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

03/17/06

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan/>

CONTACT: Patrick Crosby

(404)581-6016

FAX (404)581-6160

## **WINDER WOMAN INDICTED IN FRAUDULENT TAX REFUND SCHEME**

Atlanta, GA - LISA MELINDA LYLE, 37, of Winder, Georgia, has been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of making false claims against the United States and unlawfully using other persons' Social Security numbers in order to obtain fraudulent tax refunds. Ms. LYLE is scheduled for a bond hearing and arraignment on Monday, March 20.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "Fraudulent tax refund schemes cause tremendous financial loss to the United States Department of Treasury, and ultimately, to the millions of Americans who comply honestly and conscientiously with the laws regarding the preparation and filing of their income tax returns. We will continue to vigorously investigate and prosecute individuals involved in tax fraud schemes."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias, the indictment and other information presented in court, LYLE filed federal income tax returns in the names of relatives and acquaintances, supported by false W-2 forms containing fictitious information about the individual's employment, earnings and withholdings. The income tax returns claimed refunds based on the false information. LYLE obtained the refunds by filing for refund anticipation loans; by listing her bank account or a friend or relative's bank account as the place where the refund should be deposited, or by listing her address or a friend or relative's address as the place where the refund should be mailed. Many of the persons in whose names LYLE filed income tax returns did not realize she was filing the return in their names and misusing their Social Security numbers.

The indictment charges six counts of presenting a false claim against the United States and four counts of unlawful use of a Social Security number. The charges carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 per count.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations Division.

Assistant United States Attorney Teresa D. Hoyt is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that the indictment contains only allegations. A defendant is presumed innocent of the charges and it will be the government's burden to prove a defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt at trial.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or Gentry Shelnett, Criminal Division Chief, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).