



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Michael Collins

**Belleville Man Arraigned on Tax Charges and
Passing Fictitious United States Obligations**

A Belleville man was arraigned in United States District Court today on a twelve count superseding indictment charging him with tax evasion, failing to file tax returns and passing fictitious obligations United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Maurice Aouate, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

Michael Collins, of Belleville, Michigan, was arraigned on a twelve count superseding indictment charging him with four counts of tax evasion, four counts of failing to file tax returns, and four counts of passing fictitious obligations of the United States Government

According to court records, during 2001 through 2004, Collins received over \$210,000 in taxable income and failed to file his required federal income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service. Collins also filed fraudulent Form W-4s with his employer falsely claiming that he was "exempt" from tax withholdings. Employers use the IRS Form W-4 to determine the amount of tax withholdings that are needed to be deducted from an employee's wages.

According to court records, during 2003, Collins mailed four false and fictitious instruments known as "Registered Bills of Exchange," totaling over \$118,000, to the IRS with written instructions that these fictitious instruments were to be used to pay his tax due and owing. A false "Register Bill of Exchange" is typically defined as a negotiable financial instrument where the payee authorizes the U.S. Treasury to disburse the funds to the IRS.

United States Attorney Murphy said, "Enforcing the law against individuals who intentionally conceal income and evade taxes is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system. We should not expect the honest taxpayer to foot the bill for those who hide income from the IRS."

"The law is crystal clear; people must pay their taxes," said Aouate. "IRS Criminal Investigation will vigorously investigate those individuals who knowingly and willfully evade their tax obligation."

Mr. Murphy commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Bruce C. Judge is prosecuting the case.