



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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Eastern District of Michigan**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Guilty Verdict**

**Defendant: Christopher Aaron**

**ORTONVILLE MAN CONVICTED OF SIGNING FALSE INTERNAL  
REVENUE SERVICE FORMS ON CASINO WINNINGS**

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Christopher Aaron, age 48, of Ortonville, Michigan, was found guilty today by a federal jury in Detroit, Michigan on seventeen counts of an Indictment charging him making and subscribing false IRS forms under penalty of perjury, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. He was acquitted on one count of obstructing and impeding the administration of the internal revenue laws.

The jury deliberated for less than two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a trial that began on March 13, 2008, with jury selection before United States District Judge Nancy Edmunds.

The evidence at trial showed that the defendant signed over 900 IRS forms, under penalty of perjury, in which he provided false Social Security numbers to the IRS in connection with his gambling winnings. The defendant's total gross winnings on the forms bearing false Social Security Numbers exceeded \$3 million over the years 2000-2003. The defendant then filed federal income tax returns, indicating far less gross gambling income that he actually received. Due to offsetting gambling losses, it could not be determined with certainty whether

he actually avoided paying taxes that were due and owing

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, “Gambling winnings must be honestly reported under our voluntary tax system. Using false Social Security numbers violates this law and will result in vigorous prosecution.”

Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigative Division Maurice Aouate said, “After winning the big jackpot at any casino, IRS forms require honest information and must be properly filled out by the winner. In Aaron’s case, he provided false social security numbers to the casinos, intentionally violating the law.”

The defendant faces a maximum term of imprisonment of three years on each of the seventeen counts of conviction. The actual sentence imposed if convicted would depend on a number of factors, including the defendant’s criminal record (if any), and advisory Sentencing Guidelines.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne F. Pratt.