



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: John Diekman

CLINTON TOWNSHIP MAN ARRESTED ON TAX EVASION CHARGES

John Diekman, of Clinton Township, was arrested on an indictment charging him with four counts of tax evasion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced.

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

According to court records, during 2001 through 2004 tax years, Diekman filed fraudulent Form W-4s with his employer, American Axle, falsely claiming that he was "Exempt" from income taxes. 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. During these years, after making considerable gross income, with a substantial tax due and owing, Diekman, 58 failed to report his income to the Internal Revenue Service, as required by law.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy stated, "I hope this case sends a clear signal to those who seek to avoid taxes through illegal means. No one enjoys paying taxes, but taxpayers should pay their fair share."

““The law is crystal clear,” said Aouate. “Everybody has a duty to pay their taxes.”

Tax evasion carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine, per count.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government’s burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

United States Attorney Murphy thanked the IRS Criminal Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Barbara L. McQuade.