



U.S. Department of Justice

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Sep 3, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Christopher Aaron

**ORTONVILLE MAN SENTENCED FOR SIGNING FALSE INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE FORMS ON CASINO WINNINGS**

Christopher Aaron, age 49, of Ortonville, Michigan, was sentenced today to six months home confinement and two years probation as a result of having been convicted by a jury on seventeen counts of an Indictment charging him with making and subscribing false IRS forms under penalty of perjury, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced. United States District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds also ordered Aaron to pay a fine of \$170,000 and perform 200 hours of community service.

Joined in the announcement was Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

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.

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