



# Department of Justice

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## **WINDER WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY IN TAX FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME**

ATLANTA, GA - LISA MELINDA LYLE, 39, of Winder, Georgia, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal district court to six counts of making false claims against the United States by filing false tax returns, and four counts of knowingly using other persons' names and Social Security numbers to make false claims against the United States.

United State Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "The tax fraud in this case is egregious because the defendant stole the identity of innocent persons by using their Social Security numbers and personal information to commit the crime. We are on the lookout for tax preparers who file fraudulent returns. They will face federal prosecution and prison time."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: For the tax years 1999 through 2001, LYLE electronically filed federal tax returns online, claiming refunds were owed to the taxpayer. She filed returns in her own name and in the names of family members and acquaintances. The returns contained false information relating to the employment and earnings of the taxpayers, and were supported by fraudulent W-2s. Some of the taxpayers were aware that LYLE had prepared a tax return in their names. When interviewed, they stated that they had given LYLE correct information, but that LYLE, without their knowledge or permission, had filed the returns with incorrect information. Other individuals had no knowledge that LYLE had filed a tax return in their names, using their Social Security numbers. The employers on the W-2s were also interviewed and confirmed that the information on the W-2s was false. Some of the refunds were deposited into bank accounts belonging to LYLE, her relatives, or a friend of LYLE's. In other cases, refund checks were mailed to LYLE at her address or at the addresses of relatives or acquaintances, who would then turn the funds over to LYLE.

LYLE was indicted in March, 2006, on six counts of making false claims against the United States and on four counts of knowingly and unlawfully using a Social Security number belonging to another person to make a false claim against the United States. She pleaded guilty to all counts. She could receive a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 as to each count.

Sentencing is scheduled for November 30, 2006, at 3:30 p.m., before United States District Judge Julie E. Carnes.

This case is being investigated by Special Agents of the Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Service.

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

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney; Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney; 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).