



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former District of Columbia employee sentenced to prison
for fraud and claiming false tax refunds

Washington, D.C. – A former District of Columbia employee, Stephanie Emerson Olds, was sentenced today to 51 months of incarceration for filing false claims, first-degree fraud, and theft from a program receiving federal funds, announced U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, C. André Martin, Special Agent in Charge of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Washington, D.C. Field Office, Stephen M. Cordi, Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia's Office of Tax and Revenue, and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby.

Olds, 41, of Hyattsville, Maryland, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler, after pleading guilty in November 2007. After she completes her incarceration, Olds will serve 3 years on supervised release for the federal charges, followed by 5 years on probation for the District of Columbia charge to which she pled guilty. The Court also ordered Olds to pay a total of \$88,050.33 in restitution to the United States and District of Columbia governments.

According to the proffer of evidence by the government at the time of the plea, Olds filed a false federal income tax return in 2001 and false District of Columbia income tax returns in 2001 and 2002. Olds provided her tax preparer with forged W-2 forms stating that an employer, for whom Olds no longer worked, withheld from her salary large amounts of money for federal and District of Columbia taxes. As a result, the tax preparer filed false returns on Olds's behalf claiming over \$58,000 in fraudulent refunds.

In addition, in 2003, Olds was employed at the District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency ("CFSA") as a budget analyst. Her duties included processing invoices for the agency. In the Summer and Fall of 2003, Olds obtained checks from businesses that owed money to CFSA. Olds then deposited these checks into her personal bank account. Olds had no right to this money. In this scheme, Olds stole over \$24,000 from CFSA.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor, IRS Special Agent in Charge Martin, District of Columbia Deputy Chief Financial Officer Cordi, and District of Columbia Inspector General Willoughby praised the excellent work done by Special Agent Larry Brown of the District of Columbia Office of Tax and Revenue, Special Agent Erica Ford of the Internal Revenue Service, and Special Agent Bryan Chase of the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General. They also acknowledged the efforts of Paralegal Specialists Melanie Howard and Jeanie Latimore-Brown, Legal Assistants Mike Thompson, Teesha Tobias, and April Peeler, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Howard Sklamberg, who investigated and indicted the case, and Ellen Chubin Epstein, who prepared it for trial and sentencing.