



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO INDICTED FOR TAX FRAUD SCHEME

(Texarkana, TX) A former Arkansas Department of Corrections officer and her accomplice were arraigned today on federal tax fraud charges in the Eastern District of Texas.

JANICE F. KOONTZ, 30, of Texarkana, Arkansas, and **COLLEEN JORDAN**, 44, of Texarkana, Texas, appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Caroline Craven for arraignment.

According to information presented in court, from about 2000 through 2002, Koontz used her position as a correctional officer and security guard to obtain identity information of individuals which she would then supply to Jordan. Jordan, a former tax preparer, would use the stolen information to prepare fraudulent W-2 and tax return forms. The fraudulent forms were submitted to the IRS resulting in the defendants receiving more than \$50,000 in fraudulent tax refunds.

A federal grand jury returned a 25 count indictment on January 10, 2006, charging the defendants with conspiracy, submitting false claims, and illegal possession of identity information.

If convicted, each defendant faces up to ten years in federal prison, a fine of up to \$250,000 and payment of restitution.

It is important to note a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law. A Grand Jury indictment is not evidence of guilt.

The case is currently set for trial on March 7, 2006.

The case is being investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecutor for the government is Assistant United States Attorney Barry Bryant.

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