



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Michigan*

---

*211 W. Fort Street  
Suite 2001  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
August 26, 2004*

CONTACT: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758  
Stephen Moore, IRS CI (313) 234-2410

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

Craig Morford, United States Attorney, and Sandi Carter, Acting Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, announced that Anthony Lavigne, 38, of Canton, Michigan and formerly of Northfield Township, Michigan, was convicted by a jury in federal court on criminal contempt of court.

The evidence presented at trial established that on April 11, 2000, Mr. Lavigne appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Steven D. Pepe for his arraignment on an indictment charging him with tax evasion, among other charges. Mr. Lavigne was released on a \$10,000 unsecured bond with conditions requiring him to report as directed by Pretrial Services. In early 2001, he entered a guilty plea to one count of tax evasion, but later in the year, prior to sentencing Mr. Lavigne failed to report to Pretrial Services as required under the conditions of his bond and was found to be in violation of his pretrial release. A subsequent federal warrant was issued for his arrest.

According to court records, on October 24, 2001, Mr. Lavigne was arrested by the Romulus Police Department after being involved in a vehicle accident and a records check indicated the outstanding federal arrest warrant. He was turned over to the United States Marshals Service where he remained in custody until he was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment for the tax felony. He was then turned over to the Bureau of Prisons to start

-serving his sentence. In April 2004, Mr. Lavigne was then indicted for one count of criminal contempt of court in violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 401 (3), among other charges associated with his arrest. The jury deliberated for less than four hours in returning their guilty verdict on the criminal contempt of court charges, while returning a not guilty verdict on obstruction and using false identification charges.

There is no maximum sentence for criminal contempt. Sentencing is scheduled for December 6, 2004.

Mr. Morford commended the special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation for their work in this investigation. Trial Attorneys Kenneth C. Vert and Jeffrey A. McLellan, Department of Justice Tax Division - Northern Criminal Enforcement Section, Washington D.C., prosecuted the case.