



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan*

*211 W. Fort Street
Suite 2001
Detroit, Michigan 48226
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CONTACT: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758
Stephen Moore, IRS CI (313) 234-2410

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

United States Attorney Jeffrey Collins and Acting Special Agent in Charge of Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, Sandi Carter, announced that on July 13, 2004, Linda Jean Taylor, 45, formerly of Westland, Michigan, and now residing in Inkster, Michigan, was arraigned on charges stemming from a June 9, 2004 indictment on 24 counts of making and presenting false and fictitious claims to the Internal Revenue Service and four counts of identity theft. Also named in this indictment was Dwayna Allen, 27, of Inkster, Michigan, who was charged with six counts of making and presenting false and fictitious claims to the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Allen was arraigned July 7, 2004 and released on bond.

According to court records, during 1999 and 2000, Ms. Taylor prepared 24 federal tax returns for 12 individuals that falsely listed dependants and non-existing businesses, totaling over \$61,000 in false claims. Ms. Allen assisted her in preparing five of these false tax returns. Ms. Taylor also knowingly, without authorization, used the names and social security numbers of three other individual who were named "Linda Taylor," filing false and fictitious tax returns in their identity with the Internal Revenue Service.

Making and presenting false and fictitious claims to the Internal Revenue Service is in

violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 287. Each count of conviction carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Identity theft is in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028. Each count of conviction carries a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

An indictment is only a charge and not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

Mr. Collins commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation for their work in this investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Karen Gibbs is prosecuting the case.