



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## DENTON WOMAN ADMITS TO TAX FRAUD

(Sherman, Texas) A 60-year-old Denton woman has pleaded guilty today to four counts of tax fraud. **MARY RUTH WEST** admitted to filing fraudulent tax returns for the years of 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000. WEST also admitted that she willfully failed to file a return for the tax year 2001.

According to evidence presented by prosecutors, WEST filed federal income tax returns for the years 1997 through 2000 that did not state her true income with the intent to defraud the government. The total loss to the government was \$69,269.

**Special Agent in Charge Mike Lacenski, of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, said today, "Tax fraud undermines the integrity of our system of taxation. All Americans have a duty to pay their fair share. Cheat the IRS and you face fines and imprisonment."**

WEST faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison and a fine of not more than \$250,000 for each count. A sentencing date has not been set.

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**Matthew D. Orwig, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, praised the work of the IRS for their investigation, "The Criminal Investigation Division should be commended for their efforts to stop this kind of tax violation. This type of cheating undermines the system and cheats honest citizens who pay their fair share of taxes."**

Assistant U.S. Attorney Andy Williams prosecuted the case. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation.

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