



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Event: Sentencing**

**Defendant: Trezvant D. Woods, 33, Detroit, Michigan**

**Date: January 27, 2005**

### **A Detroit abusive tax return preparer gets a year and a day imprisonment**

United States Attorney Craig S. Morford and Maurice M. Aouate, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation announced that Trezvant D. Woods, 33, of Detroit, Michigan was sentenced today by United States District Judge George Caram Steeh to serve one year and a day in prison followed by one year of supervised release and restitution of \$50,000. This sentenced was imposed as the results of Mr. Woods' October 7, 2004 guilty plea to 13 of the 31 indicted counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax returns.

According to court records, during 1997 through 2001, Mr. Woods willfully prepared false tax returns by adding fictitious income and dependants to increase the amount of the refund from the Internal Revenue Service. Although some of the taxpayers knew about the scheme and even solicited others for Mr. Woods, many taxpayers were unaware of their fictitious returns since, as part of the scheme, they were not returns, nor did they sign their returns. Refunds were sent to Mr. Woods, who deposited them into his account and paid the taxpayers in cash. The total loss to the Internal Revenue Service was approximately \$214,000.

Mr. Aouate stated, "Abusive return prepares normally profit from the very people who least could afford IRS problems and are financially vulnerable to such a scheme, but no matter who prepares your tax return, the taxpayer is ultimately responsible for the content of the return. Consequent, the taxpayer is also responsible for the repayment on the fraudulent refunds received and all associated penalties and interest, in addition to possibly being exposed to potential criminal charges."

Mr. Morford commended the special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Elizabeth A. Stafford prosecuted the case.

