



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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Maureen Blackthorne Indicted on Tax Fraud Charges

(San Antonio, Texas) **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that Maureen Blackthorne, a resident of Bexar County, Texas, was indicted today by a Federal Grand Jury. Blackthorne was charged with making and subscribing under the penalties of perjury joint U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, Form 1040, for the calendar years 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999, which were filed with the Internal Revenue Service, and which she did not believe to be true and correct as to every material matter in that the returns failed to disclose that she was engaged in the operation of a business activity from which she derived gross receipts or sales and incurred deductions. The four-count Indictment lists that business activity as a business of buying and selling, and brokering the buying and selling, of used medical equipment which she conducted utilizing the name "R.S. Medical", the trade name of a corporation of which her husband had been an employee and part owner. In addition, for the years 1996 and 1997, the Indictment charges that she also failed to report the proceeds from the sale of shares in a corporation.

"The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas will not turn a blind eye to white collar crime and will vigorously prosecute individuals who commit this type of offense," stated **U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton**.

Filing false income tax returns is a felony. Each count carries a maximum possible prison sentence of three years and a maximum fine of \$250,000, plus costs of prosecution and a mandatory assessment of \$100 for the Victims of Crime Fund. Any period of incarceration must be followed by up to one year of supervised release.

"The majority of American taxpayers file timely, accurate tax returns. Part of our mission is to assure those honest taxpayers that everyone pays their fair share," stated **Enrique Fasci, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation**.

The case was investigated by special agents of the San Antonio Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William R. Harris.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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