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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FILING FALSE
FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Elizabeth Sutton, age 39, of Aberdeen, Maryland pleaded guilty today to filing false United States individual tax returns totaling \$64,261.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, Sutton filed a return in her own name for the 2000 and 2001 tax years claiming a refund of \$3,292 and \$8,331, respectfully. Sutton also filed four returns on behalf of four other individuals. Sutton created false W-2 forms to support the returns. The IRS uncovered the scheme, however, after it paid Sutton a tax refund of \$3,292 for the year 2000 return.

Sutton faces a maximum sentence of five years incarceration, followed by at least two years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentencing of Sutton is scheduled for May 9, 2003 at 9:30 a.m..

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service- Criminal Investigation, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ari S. Casper.