



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland
Northern Division*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091*

*Northern Division
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.go*

**July 7, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
Vickie E. LeDuc, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

LAUREL WOMAN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

Baltimore, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Evelina C. Hodge, age 41, of Laurel, Maryland was sentenced today to 27 months incarceration for filing false United States individual tax returns in an attempt to obtain tax refunds totaling approximately \$85,000. Hodge was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$59,000--the amount the Internal Revenue Service actually paid in fraudulent refunds.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, Hodge filed approximately 25 income tax returns during 1998 and 1999 in the names of friends and family which contained false and fraudulent information. The false information typically involved fictitious employers, inflated withholding figures and false wage information. Hodge also filed false personal returns for herself which intentionally overstated her income, withholding and deductions. The IRS paid approximately \$59,000 of the \$85,000 Hodge attempted to receive in fraudulent tax refunds.

The statement of facts also indicated that Hodge was previously convicted in Maryland for engaging in the same conduct for earlier tax years. Hodge was on probation for filing false state returns at the time she filed the false federal returns. The 27-month sentence is to run consecutively

to any state sentence served by Hodge.

This case was the result of a joint investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph L. Evans and Craig M. Wolff.