



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan

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For Immediate Release:
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Event: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Peter Arndt

Gaylord Appraisal Business Owner Pleads Guilty to Filing a False Tax Return

Peter Arndt, 53, of Gaylord, Michigan, pleaded guilty to willfully filing a false federal income tax return, signed under penalty of perjury, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg.

Mr. Berg was joined in an announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to court records, during 1996 through 2003, Arndt was self-employed as a real estate appraiser, earning substantial income. During those years, he failed to file his federal income tax returns. In 2004, as part of divorce proceedings, he was directed to submit his tax returns. He prepared, but deliberately failed to advise the return preparer of the full amount of his gross income from his real estate appraisal business, materially understanding his income. During these years, the tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service totaled over \$117,000.

United States Attorney Berg stated, "Our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens with our shared responsibility to pay taxes. Prosecution of individuals who intentionally and willfully file false tax returns is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system."

"IRS Criminal Investigation directs its efforts at the portion of American taxpayers who willfully and intentionally violate their known legal duty to file accurate income tax returns," said Aouate. "Failing to do so, undermines the integrity of our system of taxation."

Willfully filing false federal income tax returns, signed under penalty of perjury carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

A sentencing date was set for June 11, 2009, at 3:00 pm before United States District Court Thomas L. Ludington in Bay City, Michigan.

United States Attorney Berg thanked the special agents from IRS Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The case is being prosecuted by the Assistant United States Attorney Robert W. Haviland.