

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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For Immediate Release

## **ST. LOUIS AREA WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS ON INCOME TAX RETURNS**

St. Louis, Missouri: A St. Louis area woman has pled guilty to under reporting her income on income tax returns, United States Attorney James G. Martin and Al Patton, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation announced today.

This case was investigated by IRS Criminal Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey Jensen is handling the case for the U.S. Attorney's Office.

KATHLEEN A. SHARP, 53, of the 9100 block of Coral Drive, St. Louis, 63123, pled guilty to one felony count of making false statements on income tax returns. She appeared before United States District Judge Jean C. Hamilton.

Sharp now faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and/or a fine of \$250,000. Restitution is mandatory. Sentencing has been set for September 10, 2004.

According to the facts filed with the court, Sharp worked for MAK Printing, Glendale, Missouri, September 1997 until April 2003. Among other things, Sharp was responsible for MAK Printing's bookkeeping and maintained custody of MAK Printing's checkbook. Beginning in August 1998 and continuing until March 2003, Sharp forged the MAK owner's signature on MAK Printing's checks. Sharp admitted with her plea that she made these checks payable to herself and deposited them into her personal checking account. The total amount Ms. Sharp took from MAK Printing in this manner was \$385,735.23. She admitted that she used most of this money to gamble at Harrah's Casino.

Additionally, Sharp failed to include \$277,245.65 of this \$385,735.23 taken from MAK Printing in her adjusted gross income for the tax years 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002, resulting in unpaid taxes of \$76,942.

"Taxes are essential to ensure the efficient operation of our government," said Al Patton, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation. "Deliberately under-reporting or omitting income from federal tax returns is a criminal offense and those involved in this type of criminal activity will be subject to criminal penalties."

United States Attorney James G. Martin added, "Individuals who fraudulently fail to pay their taxes are in essence stealing from every honest taxpayer, and we will aggressively pursue such criminal activity."