



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**BREVARD COUNTY TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO
MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE**

Orlando, Florida - United States Attorney Paul I. Perez today announced that **DARWIN R. CARPENTER, JR.**, a 59 year old resident of Melbourne, Florida, pled guilty to two counts of making a false statement to an agency of the United States. **CARPENTER** faces up ten years' imprisonment and a fine of \$500,000. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

According to the information and other documents filed with the Court, prior to July 2003, **CARPENTER** was a certified public accountant (CPA) in Melbourne, Florida. In that capacity, **CARPENTER** was authorized to represent clients before the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). On or about July 16, 2003, **CARPENTER's** license was suspended by the Florida Department of Business and Public Regulation, Board of Accountancy; the suspension remains in effect as of this date. A CPA whose license to practice has been suspended is not authorized to represent taxpayers before the IRS until that suspension is lifted unless the CPA falls into one of the other categories of individuals who are allowed

to represent taxpayers before the IRS, into which he does not fall. Despite the suspension of his CPA license, **CARPENTER** continued to hold himself out to the general public as a licensed CPA, including advising clients that he was a CPA, and using the CPA designation on his letterhead, website, business cards, and fax cover sheets. From at least September 1, 2003 until October 15, 2006, **CARPENTER** filed seventy-two Form 2848s (Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative) on behalf of clients which stated and certified that he was a CPA even though his CPA license had been suspended. The information charges **CARPENTER** with two of those false forms. In all instances, **CARPENTER** knew that his CPA license had been suspended and was not allowed to represent clients before the IRS in that capacity.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney I. Randall Gold.