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LOCAL MEDICAL DOCTOR INDICTED ON FEDERAL TAX EVASION CHARGES

*Dr. Garland Miller works at the
DeSoto Regional Health System*

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . GARLAND D. MILLER, age 51, of Zwolle, Louisiana, a medical doctor who worked at the DeSoto Regional Health System, has been indicted by a federal grand jury for tax evasion, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today.

MILLER is charged in the indictment with two counts of attempting to evade or defeat federal income tax. The indictment alleges that MILLER contracted with DeSoto Hospital Association d/b/a DeSoto Regional Health System (DeSoto Regional) to operate a medical clinic as its employee, with professional fee income earned by MILLER to belong to DeSoto Regional with a few exceptions. The indictment charges that MILLER instead embezzled payments due to DeSoto Regional and converted them or caused someone else to convert them to cash and money orders. The indictment further alleges that MILLER converted or caused to be converted his income to cash and money orders in order to evade income taxes. It is further alleged that MILLER received substantial taxable income for calendar years 2000 and 2001 and did not file an income tax return for those years.

If convicted, MILLER faces up to 5 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both, on each count. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Mignonne Griffing. Additional assistance was provided by the Office of the DeSoto Parish District Attorney, Don Burkett.

For additional information, please contact U.S. Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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