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SHREVEPORT WOMAN SENTENCED ON TAX FRAUD CHARGES

*The result of this case is a loss to the government
in excess of \$67,000*

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . **BETTY JEAN THOMAS**, age 60, of Shreveport, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge S. Maurice Hicks to **spend 12 months and one day in prison** for assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. **THOMAS was also ordered to pay a fine in the amount of \$3,000. THOMAS was immediately taken into custody by the U.S. Marshal's Service following sentencing.**

THOMAS pleaded guilty in May 2007 to a Bill of Information charging her with one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false or fraudulent tax returns. THOMAS was employed at Fast Tax Services, Inc., a local tax preparation service in Shreveport. Testimony during the plea hearing revealed that THOMAS prepared and electronically transmitted numerous federal tax returns using false information for tax years 2004 and 2005. Specifically, in February 2005, THOMAS prepared a tax return for an individual and listed false business expenses on the Schedule C form in the amount of \$18,350, when in fact the individual did not own a business, nor did that individual have any legitimate profits or losses to deduct.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, Shreveport Division, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Martha J. Levarnsen.

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