



# PRESS NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Greenville Mother and Daughter Plead Guilty to Tax Fraud**

**Columbia, South Carolina** ---- Acting United States Attorney Kevin F. McDonald stated today that Martha Vernon, age 45, and her daughter Tiffany Dunbar, age 29, both of Greenville, pled guilty in federal court to conspiracy to defraud the IRS and filing false claims. United States District Judge Henry M. Herlong, Jr., accepted the pleas and will sentence the women at a later date.

Vernon admitted that she recruited her daughter Dunbar to steal the names and social security numbers of individuals from her place of employment. Once Dunbar gave the identification information to Vernon, she would then fabricate a W-2 form in that person's name and then file an 1040 form requesting a tax refund. Each refund was then be sent electronically to Vernon's bank account. The scheme netted the women more than \$200,000 from the IRS before the fraud was uncovered.

Mr. McDonald stated the maximum penalty each woman can receive is a fine of \$250,000 and imprisonment for 10 years. Both will also be required to make full restitution.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins of the Greenville office handled the case.

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