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**CLOVIS DOCTOR INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott and IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Roger L. Wirth announced today that DAVID J. EDWARDS was indicted by a federal grand jury in Fresno on three counts of tax evasion, one count of obstructing and impeding the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and two counts of presenting false and fictitious instruments to the United States.

This case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the IRS.

DAVID J. EDWARDS, 74, is a doctor with medical offices at Sunnyside Medical, 360 South Clovis Avenue in Clovis. The indictment alleges that EDWARDS evaded the payment of \$55,0974 in taxes for 1998, \$205,456 for 1999, and \$148,291 for 2000. The indictment further alleges that EDWARDS submitted false documents to the IRS which he represented to be actual monetary instruments in an attempt to pay his federal income taxes, filed fraudulent UCC-1 Financing Statements in an attempt to create a liability that took priority over an IRS claim, and by having trusts hold his assets in an attempt to conceal from the IRS the nature and extent of his assets.

"All of us must perform our civic responsibility of paying our lawful taxes. This case should serve as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of not doing so," said United States Attorney Scott.

According to IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Wirth, "People who evade their tax obligations should expect to face federal criminal prosecution and possible imprisonment. When one person attempts to break the law, all taxpayers suffer."

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Cullers, who is prosecuting the case, EDWARDS faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000 on each of the tax evasion counts; up to three years in prison and a fine of up to \$3,000 if convicted on the obstruction count, and up to 25 years and a fine up to \$250,000 on each of the false instruments counts. EDWARDS has a court appearance today, February 10, at 11:00 in Fresno.

The charges in the indictment are only allegations, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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