



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Federal Building, Room 3654
United States Courthouse
1130 O. Street
Fresno, California 93721

559/498-7272
Fax 559/498-7432

For Immediate Release
April 22, 2002

**INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH TAX SCHEME PLEAD
GUILTY TO OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE**

FRESNO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that TERRI YVONNE LEWIS and STEVEN LYLE ANDERSON pled guilty in U.S. District Court to conspiracy to obstruct justice relating to their efforts to shred documents and delete information from a computer in order to avoid revealing information to a federal grand jury.

According to the indictment filed with the court, TERRI YVONNE LEWIS, 42, and STEVEN LYLE ANDERSON, 37, are residents of Squaw Valley, California, and were members and associates of Anderson's Ark and Associates (AAA), a nationwide and worldwide organization which promoted the use of trusts by individuals to avoid paying taxes. According to the plea agreements, both TERRI YVONNE LEWIS and STEVEN LYLE ANDERSON admitted that, after being served with federal grand jury subpoenas requesting AAA-related documents, they deleted and operated a "wipe" program to erase AAA records and information from a computer located at the residence of TERRI YVONNE LEWIS. Defendant TERRI YVONNE LEWIS further admitted that she shredded AAA-related documents after being served with a grand jury subpoena.

Dwight J. Sparlin, Special Agent in Charge for IRS Criminal Investigation in Northern California said: " Those who destroy evidence and attempt to obstruct justice run a very high risk of being criminally prosecuted."

TERRI YVONNE LEWIS faces up to 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

STEVEN LYLE ANDERSON also faces up to 5 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Mark E. Cullers, Sherrill Carvalho and Sheila K. Oberto and was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service.

###