



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
Joe W. Stecher

1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

March 5, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the Internal Revenue Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: On March 3, 2009, the Honorable Judge Joseph Bataillon sentenced Victoria Valdez, 36, of Fremont, Nebraska, to a term of 6 months in prison followed by 1 year supervised release for her conviction for aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false United States Individual Income Tax Return for the tax years 2003 and 2005.

Valdez was indicted in July 2008 on fifteen (15) counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns for the 2003 through 2006 income tax years. Valdez's scheme included listing false or exaggerated deductions including deductions for rental property or child care expenses, and other fraudulent business deductions. During the plea hearing, the United States and Victoria Valdez agreed that she will be responsible for the conduct charged in all 15 counts and the entire amount of the loss which amounted to \$77,068.00.

"If you choose to have your tax returns prepared by a return preparer, it is important to understand that you are ultimately responsible for all of the information on the return" said Toni Weirauch, Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation. "And if the tax return is bad, it is the taxpayer whose name is on the return that will be responsible for paying the additional taxes, penalties and interest."

Name of Defendant: Victoria Valdez

AKA:

Age: 36

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Ct. I-Aiding and Assistant in the Preparation of a false return, not more than 3 years imprisonment, \$100,000 fine, not more than 1 year TSR, \$100 SA. Count II-Aiding and Assistant in the Preparation of a false return, not more than 3 years imprisonment, \$100,000 fine, not more than 1 year TSR, \$100 SA. Count XV-1-Aiding and Assistant in the Preparation of a false return, not more than 3 years imprisonment, \$100,000 fine, not more than 1 year TSR, \$100 SA.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Fremont, Nebraska

Location of Arrest: Fremont, Nebraska

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: \$77,068.00

Others Charged in Same Scheme:

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On or about the 9th day of March, 2004

Federal Arrest Date: 07/16/2008

Date Complaint Issued: N/A

Indictment Returned Date: 07/16/2008

Initial Appearance Date: 08/04/2008

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled guilty on 11/20/2008

Sentencing Date: February 13, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: Thomas D. Thalken

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Released from Custody

In Continuous Custody Since:

Assigned District Court Judge: Joseph F. Bataillon

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: FDF/hjl