

Department of Justice



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**HOT SPRINGS TAX RETURN PREPARER ENTERS
GUILTY PLEA TO TAX CHARGES**

Fort Smith, AR – Deborah Groom, United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, announced today that Shawn Parker, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, entered a guilty plea before U. S. District Judge Robert Dawson in Hot Springs. The guilty plea was regarding one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false income tax returns. Parker faces a maximum penalty of three years in prison and a fine of \$250,000 when he is sentenced later this year.

Parker, employed as a tax preparer at Jackson Hewitt Tax Services, admitted that he prepared false federal income tax returns for a client for tax year 2004. These returns contained fraudulent business expenses, dependant claims, business deductions, moving expenses, and itemized deductions. The returns were filed with the Internal Revenue Service for refunds.

Parker was charged by felony information, charging him with one count of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false income tax returns. Parker's conduct resulted in more than \$125,000 loss to the government. This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation. Department of Justice Tax Attorney Robert Kemins and Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Fleming represented the government.

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