



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
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For Immediate Release:

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June 12, 2009

Event: Sentenced

Defendant: Peter Arndt

**Gaylord Appraisal Business Owner Sentenced for
Filing a False Tax Return**

Peter Arndt, 53, of Gaylord, Michigan, was sentenced to serve one year and one day in prison after having pleaded guilty to willfully filing a false federal income tax return, signed under penalty of perjury, announced United States Attorney Terrence Berg. Following his release from prison, Arndt will be placed on a one-year term of supervised release. The court also ordered Arndt to pay restitution to the IRS in the amount of \$117,433.00. Arndt was allowed to remain free on bond pending designation by the Bureau of Prisons of an institution where he will self-report to serve his sentence.

Mr. Berg was joined in an announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice M. Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation.

According to court records, during 1996 through 2003, Arndt was self-employed as a real estate appraiser, earning substantial income. During those years, he failed to file his

federal income tax returns. In 2004, as part of divorce proceedings, he was directed to submit his tax returns. He prepared, but deliberately failed to advise the return preparer of the full amount of his gross income from his real estate appraisal business, materially understating his income. During these years, the tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service totaled over \$117,000.

United States Attorney Berg stated, "Our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens with our shared responsibility to pay taxes. Prosecution of individuals who intentionally and willfully file false tax returns is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system."

"IRS Criminal Investigation directs its efforts at the portion of American taxpayers who willfully and intentionally violate their known legal duty to file accurate income tax returns," said Aouate. "Failing to do so, undermines the integrity of our system of taxation."

United States Attorney Berg thanked the special agents from IRS Criminal Investigation for their investigation of the case. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert W. Haviland.