



PRESS NOTICE

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October 15, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COLUMBIA BUSINESS OWNER SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

Columbia, South Carolina---- United States Attorney W. Walter Wilkins stated today That Lalendra Hillary Darshana Desilva, age 32, a Canadian citizen residing in Columbia, South Carolina, was sentenced today in federal court for conspiracy to commit tax fraud, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371. After a two-day contested hearing, United States District Judge Joseph F. Anderson, Jr., Sentenced Desilva to 30 months in federal prison and ordered him to pay over \$200,000 in restitution to the United States. At the conclusion of the hearing, Desilva was taken into custody as a flight risk.

Evidence presented at the change of plea hearing established that Desilva was the co-owner of HELEX, LLC, a durable medical equipment company in the Columbia area. He and his business partner failed to file income tax returns in 2003

and 2004. Testimony at the hearing established that Desilva purchased a house with untaxed funds and engaged in several questionable transactions with a Canadian company. The taxes he owed totaled approximately \$89,000. In addition, Desilva admitted to defrauding Medicaid and agreed to reimburse the United States \$112,000 for bad claims.

The case was investigated by agents of the Internal Revenue Service and Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Winston D. Holliday, Jr., of the Columbia office handled the case.

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