



United States Attorney's Office District of Connecticut Press Release

April 13, 2007 SOUTHLINGTON MAN CHARGED WITH TAX EVASION

Kevin J. O'Connor, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that a federal grand jury in Hartford has returned an Indictment charging CHRISTOPHER J. SAUNDERS, age 63, of Southington Connecticut, with five counts of attempted tax evasion. The Indictment was returned on April 11 and unsealed today.

The Indictment alleges that in each of the years 2000 through 2004, SAUNDERS, who is employed as an engineer with Northeast Utilities, attempted to evade federal income taxes by failing to file federal income tax returns with the Internal Revenue Service and by filing false Forms W-4 with his employers, CL&P and Northeast Utilities, claiming to be exempt from federal income tax. The false Forms W-4 caused no federal income taxes to be withheld from his wages during these years. The Indictment further alleges that, in 2000, SAUNDERS created trusts into which he transferred ownership of his personal residence and other assets in order to conceal income and frustrate any efforts by the Internal Revenue Service and state tax authorities to collect taxes.

If convicted, SAUNDERS faces a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

U.S. Attorney O'Connor stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Lisa E. Perkins and John A. Marrella.

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