



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

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EVENT: Indictment

Defendant: Peter Hendrickson

Man Indicted for Submitting False Documents With the Internal Revenue Service

Peter Hendrickson, 53, was arraigned today in federal court in Detroit on an indictment charging him with submitting several false documents with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

The 10-count indictment charges that for the calendar years 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 Hendrickson filed IRS Forms 1040 (income tax returns) and/or IRS Forms 4852 (Substitute for Form W-2) stating under penalties of perjury that he had received no wages in those years. The indictment indicates that he had in fact received wages in those years in varying amounts.

In May 2007, a federal court in Detroit [permanently enjoined](#) Peter Hendrickson from filing tax returns and forms on which he falsely reported his income as zero. The injunction order, signed by U.S. District Judge Nancy G. Edmunds, also required Hendrickson and his wife to repay more than \$20,000 in federal income, Social Security and Medicare taxes that

they had obtained by filing false tax returns with the IRS.

According to information in the May 2007 court order, Hendrickson based his improper conduct on a book he wrote called "Cracking the Code." The book states that federal tax withholding and income taxes on wages are applicable only for a limited class of people, primarily government employees. The court found that position to be "false and frivolous," and cited an earlier court decision holding the position to be "preposterous."

Peter Hendrickson was convicted in 1992 on federal criminal charges for failing to file a federal income tax return and for a conspiracy involving a firebomb placed in a bin at a U.S. Post Office in Royal Oak, Mich. on April 16, 1990, the last day on which tax returns could be postmarked that year.

Acting United States Attorney Berg said, "The right to protest cannot cross the line into unlawful conduct. Although our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens, no one is exempt from paying taxes or following federal tax laws."

"This is yet another example of the Justice Department's commitment, under the National Tax Defier Initiative, to use off all of its tools - both civil and criminal - to stop tax defier conduct throughout the nation," said Nathan J. Hochman, Assistant Attorney General of the Justice Department's Tax Division. "Hendrickson, if convicted, faces years in prison, steep fines, and paying back all taxes with penalties and interest."

"The Internal Revenue Code has no hidden secrets and applies to all taxpayers," said Eileen Mayer, Chief, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. "Today's indictment signals the IRS' determination to ensure that all taxpayers abide by the tax laws and pay their fair share of taxes."

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Leibson and Department of Justice Tax Division attorney Mark Daly.

More information about the Justice Department's efforts to stop tax fraud promoters and preparers through civil and criminal actions is available on the [Tax Division's website](#).