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TAX RETURN PREPARER SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN PRISON  
FOR FALSE TAX REFUNDS AND IDENTITY THEFT

Pensacola, Florida - Thomas F. Kirwin, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida, announced that Deborah R. Adams was sentenced yesterday before United States District Court Judge M. Casey Rodgers after pleading guilty in May of this year to 31 counts of preparing and filing false federal income tax returns and 13 counts of identity theft.

Adams operated a tax preparation business called "Archer Tax and Accounting Services" which she used to file thirty-one (31) false federal income tax returns during the tax years 2003 through 2005. Unbeknownst to her clients, Adams fraudulently adjusted her client's wages, deductions and withholdings to increase the refund claimed with the IRS and then had the false refund amounts deposited into one of four bank accounts which Adams controlled. Following receipt of the fictitious refund amounts, Adams would deposit the amount of taxes that the client expected to receive as a refund into the client's account. Adams also prepared completely false returns with the personal identity information and social security numbers stolen from former clients and had these false refunds also deposited to the same four bank accounts. Adams filed fraudulent claims for tax refunds totaling \$102,000.00.

In addition to the five-year prison term, United States District Judge M. Casey Rodgers ordered Adams to pay over \$62,802.47 in restitution to the IRS and placed Adams on three years of supervised release following completion of her prison sentence. The investigation was conducted by the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation with assistance from the Florida Bureau of Financial Investigation and the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Preisser.