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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, April 14, 2009

Hastings man charged with filing false tax returns

Tomorrow is Tax Day and the Internal Revenue Service reminds you that filing false tax returns is a crime. A 28-year-old Hastings man was charged yesterday in federal court for doing so.

Justin Roy Stewart was charged April 13 with one count of filing a false tax return. His charging document alleges that on July 16, 2007, Stewart willfully made and subscribed a U.S. Individual Income Tax Return for the calendar year 2006, which he did not believe to be true and correct. Specifically, it alleges that Stewart failed to report income he received from services rendered to B&R Cattle and Trucking.

If convicted, Stewart faces a potential maximum penalty of three years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicole A. Engisch.

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A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.