



U.S. Department of Justice

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LITTLE ROCK RETURN PREPARER INDICTED ON TAX CHARGES

LITTLE ROCK, AR – U. S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced that Tina Y. Hampton, 43, of Little Rock, Arkansas, has been indicted by a federal grand jury charged with 21 counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns. If convicted on all counts, Hampton faces a maximum penalty of 63 years in prison and a fine of up to \$5.25 million.

According to the indictment, from January 2002 through approximately mid-April 2004, Hampton, an employee of H & R Block in Little Rock, willfully input fraudulent amounts on her clients' tax returns before electronically submitting the returns to the Internal Revenue Service for refunds. The false items pertained to materially false and/or inflated charitable contributions, unreimbursed job expenses, unreimbursed business expenses, education credit, and medical-dental expense deductions. The indictment charges that Hampton prepared more than 80 fraudulent returns, resulting in a tax loss of more than \$153,000.

The indictment alleges that since return preparers at H & R Block were paid a percentage of the total amount of filing fees charged to taxpayers, by charging additional fees for more schedules and attachments on her clients' returns, Hampton was able to increase the commission she received from H & R Block for her work. These inflated deductions and credits also resulted in larger refunds for her clients, thus increasing her client base and generating more income for herself.

The indictment lists twenty-one (21) false tax returns for which Hampton is charged with preparing. Each return details the false items and tax loss attributable to each return.

This investigation was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation. Assistant U. S. Attorney John E. Bush will represent the government.

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