



U.S. Department of Justice

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**FORMER BELVIDERE TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY
TO CHARGES OF FEDERAL TAX FRAUD**

ROCKFORD — A former Poplar Grove, Ill. man pleaded guilty today to federal charges relating to his preparation of fraudulent federal income tax returns. The defendant, Mario Carrillo, 43, pled guilty to one count of wire fraud and one count of making a false claim to the federal government for a federal income tax refund.

According to the plea agreement, Carrillo formerly owned and operated "You and Me Tax Service," located at 128 North State Street in Belvidere. Carrillo admitted that from 2004 through March 2009, he defrauded the United States and his clients by preparing false federal income tax returns for his clients. Carrillo carried out this fraud by preparing two separate tax returns for his clients. The returns that Carrillo filed with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") on behalf of his clients claimed larger refunds than his clients were actually entitled to receive. The plea agreement further states that on the returns filed with the IRS, Carrillo falsified material information, such as inflating the number of the client's dependents and falsely claiming child care credits to which his clients were not entitled. Carrillo provided different returns to his clients, showing much smaller refunds.

The plea agreement also states that Carrillo falsely listed his office address on North State Street in Belvidere (the address of "You and Me Tax Service"), as the address of his clients on the returns that were filed with the IRS. When Carrillo received his clients' refunds, he forged their

names on the Treasury checks and deposited those checks into his bank accounts. Carrillo also admitted he listed his own bank account numbers on some of his clients' returns, causing the IRS to direct deposit the clients' refunds into Carrillo's bank accounts. In some cases, Carrillo paid his clients the lower refund amount that was shown on the copy of the returns he gave to them. In other cases, Carrillo kept all of the refunds and paid his clients nothing. In total, Carrillo admitted he obtained more than \$400,000 in federal tax refunds that he was not entitled to receive.

Carrillo faces a maximum sentence of up to 20 years imprisonment on his wire fraud conviction, up to 5 years imprisonment on his conviction for filing false tax returns, and up to 3 years of supervised release following imprisonment. In addition, each count carries a fine of up to \$250,000, or twice the loss to any victim or twice the gain to the defendant, whichever is greater. Carrillo must also be ordered to pay restitution to the United States and his clients. Sentencing has been set for February 27, 2012, at 11:00 a.m. The actual sentence will be determined by the United States District Court, guided by the advisory United States Sentencing Guidelines.

The guilty plea was announced by Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Robert L. Davila, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. The Belvidere Police Department assisted in the investigation.

The government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott A. Verseman.

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