



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, April 8, 2011
WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN

Man Pleads Guilty to Filing False Tax Return *U.S. Attorney Warns of Prosecution for Those Who Falsify Returns*

Earlier today in Minneapolis, a Minnesota man pleaded guilty to filing a false federal income tax return for tax year 2006. David A. Wright pleaded guilty to one count of filing false returns. Wright, who was charged on February 22, 2011, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz.

In his plea agreement, Wright admitted that he filed a false tax return for tax year 2006 by reporting a taxable income of \$0, despite earning \$152,271. He falsely claimed \$135,000 in moving expenses, \$14,900 in medical expenses, and \$28,715 in un-reimbursed employee expenses. Wright also admitted that when the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") confronted him regarding the false return, he provided the agency with a falsified cancelled check in an attempt to justify a portion of the falsely reported deductions.

Following the entry of Wright's guilty plea, U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones said, "This case should serve as notice to others who think there is no need to file tax returns or believe they can file bogus returns without any ramifications. Many vital services in this country, from schools to the military, are funded with tax dollars, and we all must pay our fair share. The IRS and this office take tax obligations very seriously and will tirelessly pursue those who try to avoid their tax responsibilities."

In entering his plea, Wright also admitted filing false tax returns for tax years 2005 and 2007. In 2005, he reported a taxable income of \$0, despite earning \$65,151. Wright falsely claimed \$10,000 in moving expenses, \$14,000 in medical expenses, \$20,970 in un-reimbursed employee expenses, \$10,500 in gifts to charity, \$33,511 in home mortgage loan interest, and \$11,719 in a carry-forward credit. In 2007, he reported a taxable income of \$35,429, when, in fact, he earned \$101,018. Wright falsely claimed \$19,000 in moving expenses, \$7,600 in medical

expenses, \$12,140 in charitable contributions, \$10,460 in un-reimbursed employee expenses, and \$13,719 in a mortgage interest credit. He also falsely claimed his daughter as a dependent on the return.

For his crime, Wright faces a potential maximum penalty of three years in federal prison. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the IRS-Criminal Investigation Division, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy L. Perzel.

###

Per U.S. Department of Justice policy, the U.S. Attorney's Office is not allowed to provide the age and city of residence for defendants charged in criminal tax cases.