



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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For Immediate Release

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TAX PREPARER CHARGED WITH DEFRAUDING GOVERNMENT

An indictment¹ was filed today against William A. Neal charging him with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States and four counts of assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. Neal is the owner and operator of Strawberry Mansion Financial, a tax preparation business in Philadelphia.

According to the indictment, from at least April 2004 to April 2007, Neal fraudulently reduced the tax liability of clients to provide them with larger refunds by falsely entering inflated deductions on clients' individual federal income tax returns. Neal's false deductions included false charitable contributions and false medical and business expenses. Neal's scheme defrauded the federal government of over \$117,000 in taxes.

"When tax preparers intentionally violate tax laws, everyone loses," said Memeger. "Not only is the tax preparer subject to incarceration in federal prison, but the tax payer, who relied on the tax preparer's expertise, is still responsible for the monies owed when a preparer files a fraudulent return on their behalf."

"While most return preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous tax preparers file false and fraudulent returns to defraud the government, the taxpaying public and their own clients," said IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent-in-Charge Eric Hylton. "Such return preparers wreak havoc on the integrity of our tax system. This indictment should convey that at the IRS, protecting taxpayer money is a matter we take extremely seriously."

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANT

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
William A. Neal	Philadelphia, PA	59

If convicted of all charges, the defendant faces a maximum possible sentence of 17 years in prison, a \$1.25 million fine, three years of supervised release, and a mandatory \$500 special

¹ An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

assessment.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Vineet Gauri.

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