



U.S. Department of Justice

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**Event:** Guilty Plea

**Defendant:** Tiffany Jackson-Gooden

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### FORMER ROYAL OAK TAX PREPARER PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX CHARGES

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Tiffany Jackson-Gooden, of Shreveport, Louisiana, formerly of Royal Oak, Michigan, pleaded guilty to willfully filing false personal tax returns, signed under penalties of perjury, and aiding and assisting another in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax return, Acting United States Attorney Terrence G. Berg announced.

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division.

On April 16, 2008, Jackson-Gooden was indicted on five counts of willfully filing false personal tax returns, signed under penalties of perjury, and 43 counts of aiding and assisting others in the preparation of false and fraudulent tax returns.

According to court records, Jackson-Gooden prepared and filed personal tax returns for the years 2001 through 2005 with the Internal Revenue Service, knowingly claiming false deductions that she was not entitled to claim. Some of these false deductions included fictitious job expenses, child care, and charitable gifts totaling over \$76,000. She also claimed over \$185,000 in fictitious Schedule C small business expenses.

In addition, Jackson-Gooden, while operating a tax preparation business out of her

Royal Oak residence, aided and assisted in the preparation of 43 false personal tax returns for other taxpayers. During the 2002 through 2005 tax years, she claimed false medical expenses, charitable gifts, job expenses, legal expenses, and gambling losses, among others, on these tax returns creating a loss to the Internal Revenue Service of over \$130,000.

Acting United States Attorney Berg stated, "Our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens with our shared responsibility to pay taxes. Prosecution of individuals who intentionally and willfully file false tax returns is a vital element in maintaining public confidence in our tax system."

"Every tax return preparer has a high level of responsibility, not only to their clients but to the government as well," said Aouate. "No one is entitled to an undeserved windfall and refunds should only be issued to taxpayers who are entitled to them."

Filing false tax returns, signed under penalties of perjury, and aiding and assisting in the preparation of a false tax return carries a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment and a \$100,000 fine, per count.

A sentencing date was set for April 14, 2009, at 10:00 am before United States District Court Judge Arthur J. Tarnow.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Justin C. Letts.