

## News Release

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### U.S. Department of Justice

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Northern District of  
Ohio*

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William J. Edwards, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced today that a one count Information was filed in U.S. District Court in Cleveland, Ohio, charging James K. Staples, who according to Court records is 49 years old and resides in Cleveland, Ohio, with willfully aiding and assisting in the preparation of false federal income tax returns, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(2).

The Information charges that between January 2003, and April 2006, Staples operated a sole proprietorship tax preparation business under the name J. Staples Agency Tax Service in Cleveland, Ohio. According to the Information, Staples prepared at least 76 false and fraudulent income tax returns for at least 27 clients which included one or more false entries relating to the clients' income, deductions, credits and filing status. The Information charges that as a result of the false and fraudulent income tax returns prepared by the defendant, false refund claims totaling approximately \$119,975.00 were filed with the Internal Revenue Service.

If convicted, the defendant's sentence will be determined by the Court after review of factors unique to this case, including the defendant's prior criminal record, if any, the defendant's role in the offense and the characteristics of the violation. In all cases the sentence will not exceed the statutory maximum and in most cases it will be less than the maximum.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert W. Kern, of the Cleveland U.S. Attorney's Office, following an investigation by the Cleveland Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division.

An Information is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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