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United States Attorney's Office
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News Release

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Brooklyn Park man indicted for filing false claims

A 44-year-old Brooklyn Park man was indicted this week in federal court on 14 counts of filing false tax claims against the United States.

Ellis Alance Banks was charged on April 21, and his indictment was unsealed yesterday following his initial appearance in St. Paul. His indictment alleges that from Jan. 14, 2005, through Jan. 17, 2007, he made and presented claims against the United States for payment, which he knew to be false, fictitious and fraudulent, by preparing and causing to be prepared U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns that included false claims for refunds.

The total amount of refunds claimed on the 14 tax returns that included the allegedly false claims for refunds was \$74,054.

If convicted, Banks faces a potential maximum penalty of five years in prison on each count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation Division. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Genrich.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.