



U.S. Department of Justice

Carlie Christensen

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESSMAN FACES TAX CHARGES; INDICTMENT ALLEGES HE TOOK AFFIRMATIVE ACTS OF EVASION

SALT LAKE CITY – A federal grand jury in Salt Lake City returned a six-count indictment Thursday charging John Kelly Christensen, who owned and operated a prefabricated horse stable installation business, with attempted tax evasion and failure to file a tax return.

According to the indictment, Christensen was a licensed dealer for MD Enterprises, Inc., a business that designs and manufactures pre-engineered structures, specializing in equine facilities, stables, barns, garages, self-storage units and agricultural buildings. When selling and installing products manufactured by MD Enterprises, Inc., Christensen operated under the name Equitech, Inc. For other barn and horse stable installations that did not involve MD Enterprises, Inc., products, Christensen operated under the name ACME Contractors, Inc.

The tax evasion counts in the indictment allege that during calendar years 2003, 2004, and 2005, Christensen attempted to evade paying income tax by taking affirmative acts of evasion, including, among other things:

- concealing his assets and income by transferring them into the names of nominee entities, including depositing more than \$1 million in gross receipts from his business into an account held in the name of a nominee entity, Investment World, Inc.
- concealing his assets and income by depositing gross receipts from his business into a bank account held under his son's social security number; and
- recording a fictitious promissory note in the amount of \$750,000 for property.

Christensen also is charged with three misdemeanor counts of failure to file tax returns for calendar years 2003, 2004 and 2005.

A summons will be issued to Christensen for an initial appearance on the charges in the indictment. The potential maximum penalty for attempted tax evasion is up to five years in federal prison. The three counts of failure to file a tax return carry potential one-year sentences per count. An indictment is not a finding of guilt. Individuals charged by indictment are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

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