



The United States Attorney's Office

Middle District of Tennessee

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MIDDLE TENNESSEE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO FILE FALSE CLAIMS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - April 18, 2011 - Jeanni Renee Hillin pleaded guilty today to a criminal information, charging her with conspiracy to defraud the United States by filing false, fictitious and fraudulent claims with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), announced Jerry E. Martin, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee; John A. DiCicco, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice- Tax Division; and Christopher R. Pikelis, Special Agent in Charge, IRS Criminal Investigation-Nashville Field Office.

At the plea hearing, Jeanni Renee Hillin admitted that, from February 2006 through January 2007, she conspired to defraud the United States by submitting more than 300 false tax returns, claiming fraudulent refunds on behalf of inmates incarcerated by the Tennessee Department of Correction.

Hillin also admitted that she obtained blank tax return forms and mailed them to an inmate, who entered the names and social security numbers of other inmates on the forms. The returns were then mailed back to Hillin and she mailed the fraudulent returns to the IRS. Based on information contained in the fraudulent returns, the IRS issued refunds, which Hillin received and distributed the funds to relatives and associates of inmates, keeping some of the funds for herself.

According to the information, as a result of the scheme to file false tax returns, Hillin and her co-conspirators collected approximately 88 United States Treasury checks totaling \$58,651.80. Hillin admitted that the total amount of false claims submitted to the IRS was \$228,543.00

Sentencing for Hillin will be scheduled at a later date. She faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000.00 fine.

The case is being prosecuted by Tax Division trial attorneys Michelle M. Petersen and Kathryn B. Ward. The case was investigated by the IRS, Criminal Investigation Division.

Additional information about the Justice Department's Tax Division and its enforcement efforts may be found at www.usdoj.gov/tax.