

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA     )  
  )  
  )     No.   21 CR 134  
  )     Hon. Matthew F. Kennelly  
  )  
v.   )  
  )  
EDWARD ACEVEDO                     )

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

1.     This Plea Agreement between the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR., and defendant EDWARD ACEVEDO, and his attorneys, GABRIELLE SANSONETTI, DAMON CHERONIS, and RYAN LEVITT, is made pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure and is governed in part by Rule 11(c)(1)(A), as more fully set forth below. The parties to this Agreement have agreed upon the following:

**Charges in This Case**

2.     The indictment in this case charges defendant with tax evasion, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201 (Counts One and Two), and failure to file income tax returns, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7203 (Counts Three through Six).

3.     Defendant has read the charges against him contained in the indictment, and those charges have been fully explained to him by his attorneys.

4.     Defendant fully understands the nature and elements of the crimes with which he has been charged.

**Charge to Which Defendant Is Pleading Guilty**

5. By this Plea Agreement, defendant agrees to enter a voluntary plea of guilty to the following count of the indictment: Count One, which charges defendant with tax evasion for calendar year 2017, in violation of Title 26, United States Code, Section 7201.

**Factual Basis**

6. Defendant will plead guilty because he is in fact guilty of the charge contained in Count One of the indictment. In pleading guilty, defendant admits the following facts and that those facts establish his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and constitute relevant conduct pursuant to Guideline § 1B1.3:

Throughout calendar year 2017, and continuing thereafter until the date of his indictment, in the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, defendant EDWARD ACEVEDO did willfully attempt to evade and defeat the federal income tax due and owing by him to the United States for the calendar year 2017, by committing the affirmative acts described in further detail below.

Specifically, during calendar years 2017 and 2018, the defendant was self-employed as a consultant. Under applicable federal regulations, as a self-employed consultant, defendant was required to maintain such accounting records as would enable him to file a correct return. For example, with respect to revenues the defendant received in his capacity as a self-employed consultant, defendant was required to maintain a recordkeeping system that included a summary of his business transactions, such as

accounting journals and ledgers, which recordkeeping system would show the defendant's gross income. The defendant was also required to keep supporting documents to show the amounts and sources of gross receipts, including deposit information, receipt books, invoices, and like information. With respect to expenses incurred, the defendant was obligated to keep records that identified the payee, the amount paid, proof of payment, the date an expense was incurred, as well as information demonstrating that an item purchased or service received was in fact a business expense.

During calendar year 2017, defendant received gross income of approximately \$130,775, which included approximately \$82,533 in income received from Company A, a company owned in the name of ACEVEDO's relative that ACEVEDO was associated with. On this gross income, after accounting for withholding, ACEVEDO owed to the United States federal income tax of at least approximately \$18,284. ACEVEDO willfully failed to file a Form 1040 individual income tax return for the calendar year 2017 on or before the date it was due, knowing that he was obligated to file such return on or before October 15, 2018, on account of the income he had received in 2017.

In addition to willfully failing to file this federal income tax return, defendant took affirmative acts to willfully attempt to evade and defeat the assessment of income tax due and owing for 2017, namely, handling his affairs in a manner so as to avoid the creation and maintenance of customary business and accounting records concerning actual revenues received and expenses incurred. In this regard, ACEVEDO, in his capacity as a self-employed consultant, did not create or maintain any records, such as a general

ledger, accounting journal, or any other record that would accurately document his receipt of payments from Company A, or from any other source. Moreover, even though certain entities prepared and delivered records to ACEVEDO (such as Forms W-2 or Forms 1099) that documented the payments these entities made to ACEVEDO in 2017, ACEVEDO did not maintain these records or create or maintain some substitute for them, and instead discarded them. ACEVEDO also handled his affairs in a manner as to avoid the creation and maintenance of any records concerning the expenses the defendant incurred in 2017 concerning travel, transportation, or other business expenses. The above described conduct continued into calendar year 2018. After ACEVEDO discovered he was under criminal investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, ACEVEDO caused his accountant to prepare draft federal income tax returns for calendar years 2017 and 2018, each of which was based on incomplete information ACEVEDO provided to his accountant concerning his sources of income and expenses for 2017 and 2018.

Moreover, with respect to tax years 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018, the defendant willfully failed to timely file a tax return, knowing that his income exceeded the amount that required him to file a tax return for each calendar year.

As a result of the foregoing conduct, the tax loss realized by the United States was at least approximately \$3,864 in 2015, \$18,284 in 2017, and \$15,232 in 2018.

7. The foregoing facts are set forth solely to assist the Court in determining whether a factual basis exists for defendant's plea of guilty and are not intended to be a

complete and comprehensive statement of all the facts within defendant's personal knowledge regarding the charged crime and related conduct.

**Maximum Statutory Penalties**

8. Defendant understands that the charge to which he is pleading guilty carries the following statutory penalties:

a. A maximum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment. This offense also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000. Defendant further understands that the Court must order costs of prosecution, estimated not to exceed \$500. Defendant further understands that the judge also may impose a term of supervised release of not more than three years.

b. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 3013, defendant will be assessed \$100 on the charge to which he has pled guilty, in addition to any other penalty imposed.

**Sentencing Guidelines Calculations**

9. Defendant understands that in determining a sentence, the Court is obligated to calculate the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range, and to consider that range, possible departures under the Sentencing Guidelines, and other sentencing factors under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), which include: (i) the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of the defendant; (ii) the need for the sentence imposed to reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law, and provide just punishment for the offense, afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, protect the public from further crimes of the defendant, and provide the defendant with needed

educational or vocational training, medical care, or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner; (iii) the kinds of sentences available; (iv) the need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities among defendants with similar records who have been found guilty of similar conduct; and (v) the need to provide restitution to any victim of the offense.

10. For purposes of calculating the Sentencing Guidelines, the parties agree on the following points:

a. **Applicable Guidelines.** The Sentencing Guidelines to be considered in this case are those in effect at the time of sentencing. The following statements regarding the calculation of the Sentencing Guidelines are based on the Guidelines Manual currently in effect, namely the November 2021 Guidelines Manual.

b. **Offense Level Calculations.**

i. Pursuant to Guideline §§ 2T1.1 and 2T4.1, the offense level is calculated with reference to the corresponding tax loss. The base offense level is 12, because the tax loss for the offense of conviction and relevant conduct is more than \$15,000 but less than \$40,000.

ii. Defendant has clearly demonstrated a recognition and affirmative acceptance of personal responsibility for his criminal conduct. If the government does not receive additional evidence in conflict with this provision, and if defendant continues to accept responsibility for his actions within the meaning of Guideline § 3E1.1(a), including by furnishing the United States Attorney's Office and the

Probation Office with all requested financial information relevant to his ability to satisfy any fine that may be imposed in this case, a two-level reduction in the offense level is appropriate.

c. **Criminal History Category.** With regard to determining defendant's criminal history points and criminal history category, based on the facts now known to the government, defendant's criminal history points equal zero and defendant's criminal history category is I.

d. **Anticipated Advisory Sentencing Guidelines Range.** Therefore, based on the facts now known to the government, the anticipated offense level is 10 which, when combined with the anticipated criminal history category of I, results in an anticipated advisory sentencing guidelines range of six to twelve months' imprisonment, in addition to any supervised release and fine the Court may impose.

e. Defendant and his attorneys and the government acknowledge that the above guidelines calculations are preliminary in nature, and are non-binding predictions upon which neither party is entitled to rely. Defendant understands that further review of the facts or applicable legal principles may lead the government to conclude that different or additional guidelines provisions apply in this case. Defendant understands that the Probation Office will conduct its own investigation and that the Court ultimately determines the facts and law relevant to sentencing, and that the Court's determinations govern the final guideline calculation. Accordingly, the validity of this Agreement is not contingent upon the probation officer's or the Court's concurrence

with the above calculations, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea on the basis of the Court's rejection of these calculations.

11. Both parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is not governed by Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B), and that errors in applying or interpreting any of the sentencing guidelines may be corrected by either party prior to sentencing. The parties may correct these errors either by stipulation or by a statement to the Probation Office or the Court, setting forth the disagreement regarding the applicable provisions of the guidelines. The validity of this Agreement will not be affected by such corrections, and defendant shall not have a right to withdraw his plea, nor the government the right to vacate this Agreement, on the basis of such corrections.

#### **Agreements Relating to Sentencing**

12. The government agrees to recommend that the Court impose a sentence within the applicable guideline range.

13. It is understood by the parties that the sentencing judge is neither a party to nor bound by this Agreement and may impose a sentence up to the maximum penalties as set forth above. Defendant further acknowledges that if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

14. Defendant agrees to pay the special assessment of \$100 at the time of sentencing with a cashier's check or money order payable to the Clerk of the U.S. District Court.



15. Defendant agrees that the United States may enforce collection of any fine or restitution imposed in this case pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Sections 3572, 3613, and 3664(m), and that the Internal Revenue Service may collect the full amount of the restitution-based assessment pursuant to Title 26, United States Code, Section 6331, notwithstanding any payment schedule set by the Court.

16. After sentence has been imposed on the count to which defendant pleads guilty as agreed herein, the government will move to dismiss the remaining counts of the indictment as to defendant.

### **Acknowledgments and Waivers Regarding Plea of Guilty**

#### **Nature of Agreement**

17. This Agreement is entirely voluntary and represents the entire agreement between the United States Attorney and defendant regarding defendant's criminal liability in case 21 CR 134.

18. This Agreement concerns criminal liability only. Except as expressly set forth in this Agreement, nothing herein shall constitute a limitation, waiver, or release by the United States or any of its agencies of any administrative or judicial civil claim, demand, or cause of action it may have against defendant or any other person or entity. The obligations of this Agreement are limited to the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Illinois and cannot bind any other federal, state, or local prosecuting, administrative, or regulatory authorities, except as expressly set forth in this Agreement.

19. Defendant understands that nothing in this Agreement shall limit the Internal Revenue Service in its collection of any taxes, interest or penalties from defendant. Defendant understands that the amount of tax as calculated by the IRS may exceed the amount of tax due as calculated for the criminal case.

### **Waiver of Rights**

20. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he surrenders certain rights, including the following:

a. **Trial rights.** Defendant has the right to persist in a plea of not guilty to the charges against him, and if he does, he would have the right to a public and speedy trial.

i. The trial could be either a jury trial or a trial by the judge sitting without a jury. However, in order that the trial be conducted by the judge sitting without a jury, defendant, the government, and the judge all must agree that the trial be conducted by the judge without a jury.

ii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of twelve citizens from the district, selected at random. Defendant and his attorneys would participate in choosing the jury by requesting that the Court remove prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or by removing prospective jurors without cause by exercising peremptory challenges.

iii. If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be instructed that defendant is presumed innocent, that the government has the burden of proving

defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and that the jury could not convict him unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt and that it was to consider each count of the indictment separately. The jury would have to agree unanimously as to each count before it could return a verdict of guilty or not guilty as to that count.

iv. If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, and considering each count separately, whether or not the judge was persuaded that the government had established defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

v. At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against defendant. Defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and his attorneys would be able to cross-examine them.

vi. At a trial, defendant could present witnesses and other evidence in his own behalf. If the witnesses for defendant would not appear voluntarily, he could require their attendance through the subpoena power of the Court. A defendant is not required to present any evidence.

vii. At a trial, defendant would have a privilege against self-incrimination so that he could decline to testify, and no inference of guilt could be drawn from his refusal to testify. If defendant desired to do so, he could testify in his own behalf.

b. **Appellate rights.** Defendant further understands he is waiving all appellate issues that might have been available if he had exercised his right to trial, and may only appeal the validity of this plea of guilty and the sentence imposed. Defendant understands that any appeal must be filed within 14 calendar days of the entry of the judgment of conviction.

21. Defendant understands that by pleading guilty he is waiving all the rights set forth in the prior paragraphs, with the exception of the appellate rights specifically preserved above. Defendant's attorneys have explained those rights to him, and the consequences of his waiver of those rights.

**Presentence Investigation Report/Post-Sentence Supervision**

22. Defendant understands that the United States Attorney's Office in its submission to the Probation Office as part of the Pre-Sentence Report and at sentencing shall fully apprise the District Court and the Probation Office of the nature, scope, and extent of defendant's conduct regarding the charges against him, and related matters. The government will make known all matters in aggravation and mitigation relevant to sentencing.

23. Defendant agrees to truthfully and completely execute a Financial Statement (with supporting documentation) prior to sentencing, to be provided to and shared among the Court, the Probation Office, and the United States Attorney's Office regarding all details of his financial circumstances, including his recent income tax returns as specified by the probation officer. Defendant understands that providing false

or incomplete information, or refusing to provide this information, may be used as a basis for denial of a reduction for acceptance of responsibility pursuant to Guideline § 3E1.1 and enhancement of his sentence for obstruction of justice under Guideline § 3C1.1, and may be prosecuted as a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001 or as a contempt of the Court.

24. For the purpose of monitoring defendant's compliance with his obligations to pay a fine during any term of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced, defendant further consents to the disclosure by the IRS to the Probation Office and the United States Attorney's Office of defendant's individual income tax returns (together with extensions, correspondence, and other tax information) filed subsequent to defendant's sentencing, to and including the final year of any period of supervised release or probation to which defendant is sentenced. Defendant also agrees that a certified copy of this Agreement shall be sufficient evidence of defendant's request to the IRS to disclose the returns and return information, as provided for in Title 26, United States Code, Section 6103(b).

#### **Other Terms**

25. Defendant agrees to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office in collecting any unpaid fine for which defendant is liable, including providing financial statements and supporting records as requested by the United States Attorney's Office.

26. Regarding matters relating to the Internal Revenue Service, defendant agrees as follows: Defendant agrees to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in

any tax examination or audit of defendant which directly or indirectly relates to or arises out of the course of conduct that defendant has acknowledged in this Agreement, by transmitting to the IRS original records or copies thereof, and any additional books and records that the IRS may request.

27. Defendant will not object to a motion brought by the United States Attorney's Office for the entry of an order authorizing disclosure of documents, testimony and related investigative materials which may constitute grand jury material, preliminary to or in connection with any judicial proceeding, pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 6(e)(3)(E)(i). In addition, defendant will not object to the government's solicitation of consent from third parties who provided records or other materials to the grand jury pursuant to grand jury subpoenas, to turn those materials over to the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office, or an appropriate federal or state agency (including but not limited to the Internal Revenue Service), for use in civil or administrative proceedings or investigations, rather than returning them to the third parties for later summons or subpoena in connection with a civil or administrative proceeding involving, or investigation of, defendant.

28. Defendant understands that, if convicted, a defendant who is not a United States citizen may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

### Conclusion

29. Defendant understands that this Agreement will be filed with the Court, will become a matter of public record, and may be disclosed to any person.

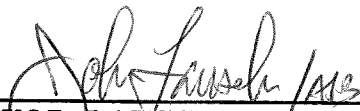
30. Defendant understands that his compliance with each part of this Agreement extends throughout the period of his sentence, and failure to abide by any term of the Agreement is a violation of the Agreement. Defendant further understands that in the event he violates this Agreement, the government, at its option, may move to vacate the Agreement, rendering it null and void, and thereafter prosecute defendant not subject to any of the limits set forth in this Agreement, or may move to resentence defendant or require defendant's specific performance of this Agreement. Defendant understands and agrees that in the event that the Court permits defendant to withdraw from this Agreement, or defendant breaches any of its terms and the government elects to void the Agreement and prosecute defendant, any prosecutions that are not time-barred by the applicable statute of limitations on the date of the signing of this Agreement may be commenced against defendant in accordance with this paragraph, notwithstanding the expiration of the statute of limitations between the signing of this Agreement and the commencement of such prosecutions.

31. Should the judge refuse to accept defendant's plea of guilty, this Agreement shall become null and void and neither party will be bound to it.

32. Defendant and his attorneys acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made, nor agreements reached, other than those set forth in this Agreement, to cause defendant to plead guilty.


33. Defendant acknowledges that he has read this Agreement and carefully reviewed each provision with his attorneys. Defendant further acknowledges that he understands and voluntarily accepts each and every term and condition of this Agreement.

AGREED THIS DATE: December 13, 2021

  
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JOHN R. LAUSCH, JR.  
*United States Attorney*

  
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AMARJEET S. BHACHU  
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*Assistant United States Attorneys*

  
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