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how to make a quick buck, cashing \$12 million in fraudulent tax-refund checks over five months last year, authorities say.

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A convicted Miami-Dade drug trafficker unemployed for the past decade discovered how to make a quick buck, cashing \$12 million in fraudulent tax-refund checks over five months last year, authorities say.

Frankie Jermaine Anderson skimmed 20 percent of the take for himself, gave 30 percent to a Perrine check-cashing store owner and delivered the other half of the proceeds to the supplier of the refund checks, according to federal prosecutors.

Anderson, 40, was arrested Tuesday on a criminal complaint and charged with conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government, theft of federal money and aggravated identity theft. He will have a detention hearing in Miami federal court Monday.

Anderson's alleged scheme, while hardly unusual in one of the nation's ID-theft, taxrefund fraud capitals, is nonetheless striking for the total value of Treasury Department checks cashed over such a short span.

Internal Revenue Service agents initially took down Anderson in a sting operation in November, when he was caught with 35 Treasury refund checks totaling \$119,165 that he was allegedly trying to cash through a confidential source and undercover agent in Miami. Anderson confessed to the Perrine check-cashing store scam to IRS agents, according to the criminal complaint.

Prosecutor Michael Berger said the fraudulently obtained refund checks in Anderson's possession included one for a dead person.

The U.S. attorney's office has moved to seize two homes in Southwest Miami-Dade

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with intent to manufacture and distribute cocaine. He was sentenced to five years in prison.

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