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Jun. 24, 2020



An Easton, Pennsylvania, man admitted on June 22 that he **sought more than \$295,000** in fraudulent federal tax refunds, according to a news release.

Stalyn Morales, 42, used identities he stole from other individuals to perpetrate the tax scam between January 2011 and June 2015, online court records say.

The records say the returns were filed on behalf of Puerto Rican residents. Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory but most of its residents aren't required to file U.S. tax returns if their income is derived from Puerto Rico. The returns filed by Morales and the conspirator were filed using stolen names, social security numbers and birthdates of Puerto Rican residents, the records say.

Morales pleaded guilty to submitting false tax claims and to aggravated identity theft

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“Morales’ scheme victimized honest taxpayers in two ways: first, by stealing their identities and second, by trying to rip off the federal government,” said United States Attorney William M. McSwain in a prepared statement. “Now, he will face the consequences, as will anybody else who attempts to carry out a similar scheme.”

Morales faces a maximum possible sentence of seven years in prison and up to a \$500,000 fine.

Morales’ attorney, Glennis Clark, didn’t return a message seeking comment. Sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 2.

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