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Tax Refund Fraud Scheme

From 2012 through 2016, Tedla and her coconspirators prepared and electronically filed with the IRS fraudulent returns on behalf of clients and illegally-obtained identities of unwitting taxpayers

Isaac M. O'Bannon • Apr. 07, 2023



An Indiana woman pleaded guilty in federal court last Friday in the District of Columbia to conspiring to file false tax returns and related charges.

According to court documents and statements made in court, Awett Tedla of Indianapolis was the owner and operator of Speedy Tax Services, L.L.C., a tax preparation business in Washington, D.C., and District Heights, Maryland. From 2012 through 2016, Tedla and her coconspirators prepared and electronically filed with the IRS fraudulent returns on behalf of clients and illegally-obtained identities of unwitting taxpayers, claiming purported refunds were due. The false returns

reported fictitious businesses and claimed certain tax credits in order to generate

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mandatory sentence of two years in prison for aggravated identity theft. Tedla also faces a period of supervised release, restitution and monetary penalties. A federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General Stuart M. Goldberg of the Justice Department's Tax Division made the announcement.

IRS-Criminal Investigation and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) are investigating the case.

Trial Attorneys Mark McDonald and George Meggali of the Justice Department's Tax Division are prosecuting the case.

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