



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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March 5, 2004

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MAUREEN BLACKTHORNE CONVICTED ON FEDERAL TAX CHARGE

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that a federal jury in San Antonio convicted Maureen Blackthorne of filing a fraudulent income tax return. As a result, Blackthorne faces up to three years in federal prison, restitution, a maximum \$250,000 fine, plus cost of prosecution.

Evidence presented during trial revealed that Blackthorne filed a false 1999 Income Tax Return, Form 1040. The jury found that Blackthorne failed to report \$430,378.17 of income generated from a business she conducted using the name "R.S. Medical," the trade name of a corporation of which her husband had been an employee and part owner. Blackthorne, using the name "R.S. Medical," bought and sold used medical equipment.

The jury acquitted Blackthorne of filing false Income tax returns for calendar years 1996-1998.

Blackthorne is out on a \$1 million bond pending sentencing. Sentencing is scheduled for 8:30am on June 11, 2004, before United States District Judge Fred Biery.

The case was investigated by special agents of the San Antonio Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys William R. Harris and Jim Blankinship.

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