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EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**April 7, 2008**

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**Tax Preparer Sentenced in Federal Court**

(Norfolk, VA) –Dedra R. Chapman, age 38, a Virginia Beach tax preparer, was sentenced today in United States District Court to five months imprisonment for aiding and assisting in the preparation of false and fraudulent individual income tax returns. Following her imprisonment, Chapman will serve five months of home detention as part of a one year term of supervised release. Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, made the announcement after the sentence was imposed by United States District Judge Robert G. Doumar. Chapman had pled guilty in December to that offense.

According to court records, between January 2005 and February 2006, Chapman prepared twenty-eight false and fraudulent income tax returns for friends and acquaintances. She charged fees and received monetary gifts for the preparation of these bogus returns. The fraudulent items in the returns prepared by Chapman included false W-2 wage forms and false information regarding dependents, Schedule C businesses, Individual Retirement Account deductions, tuition and fee expenses, education expenses and child care expenses. The filing of these false returns resulted in a tax loss to the Internal Revenue Service of \$71,413.

In addition, Chapman prepared and filed a false and fraudulent tax return in her own name for the year 2004, which included a false tuition deduction and false education expenses. The Internal Revenue Service sustained an additional tax loss of \$2,038 as a result of this false return.

This case was investigated by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Internal Revenue Service. Assistant United States Attorney Alan M. Salsbury prosecuted the case for the United States.

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