



U.S. Department of Justice

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**FORMER BELVIDERE TAX PREPARER SENTENCED TO
FOUR YEARS IN PRISON ON CHARGES OF FEDERAL TAX FRAUD**

ROCKFORD — A former Poplar Grove, Ill. man was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Philip G. Reinhard to 4 years in prison on federal charges relating to his preparation of fraudulent federal income tax returns. The defendant, Mario Carrillo, 43, pled guilty on Nov. 22, 2011, to one count of wire fraud and one count of making a false claim to the federal government for a federal income tax refund.

According to the written plea agreement, Carrillo formerly owned and operated "You and Me Tax Service," located on North State Street in Belvidere. Carrillo admitted that from 2004 through March 2009, he defrauded the United States and his clients by preparing false federal income tax returns. Carrillo carried out this fraud by preparing two separate tax returns for each of his clients: one return that Carrillo filed with the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), and a separate, different return that Carrillo gave to the client. On many of the returns that he filed with the IRS, Carrillo claimed much larger refunds than his clients were actually entitled to receive. Carrillo caused these higher refund claims by falsifying material information on the returns, such as creating false dependents and claiming child care credits to which his clients were not entitled. The separate returns that Carrillo provided to his clients showed that they were entitled to much smaller refunds.

Carrillo also admitted that, as part of his fraud scheme, he falsely listed his office address on North State Street in Belvidere (the address of “You and Me Tax Service”) as the address of his clients on the returns that were filed with the IRS. This caused the IRS to send the refunds to Carrillo. When Carrillo received his clients’ refunds, he forged their names on the Treasury checks and deposited those checks into his bank accounts. Carrillo then issued checks to his clients for the smaller refund amounts shown on the tax returns he had provided to his clients. Carrillo kept the difference between the refund amounts he received to the IRS and the amounts he paid to his clients. Carrillo further admitted that, in some cases, he kept all of the refunds and paid his clients nothing. In total, Carrillo admitted he defrauded the United States and his clients out of \$422,768.53. As part of the sentence, the court also ordered Carrillo to pay restitution to the United States and his clients in that amount.

The sentencing was announced by Gary S. Shapiro, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Dwaine Brinson, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Field Division of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. The IRS and the Belvidere Police Department assisted in the investigation.

The government was represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott A. Verseman.

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