



NEWS

State of Delaware
Department of Finance
Division of Revenue
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 2, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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NEW CASTLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT & FILING A FALSE TAX RETURN

(Wilmington, DE) – Patrick T. Carter, Director of Revenue announced today that a New Castle man previously indicted on multiple tax fraud charges pleaded guilty before NCC Superior Court Judge Paul R. Wallace to a total of three felony counts of identity theft and filing a false state income tax return.

Jamaal Y. Barksdale, 31, was originally charged with five felony counts, including three counts of filing false tax returns and two counts of identity theft in which he used the personal information of other people to file fraudulent state income tax returns.

An investigation conducted by the Delaware Division of Revenue's Criminal Investigation Unit determined that Barksdale and a codefendant electronically submitted as many as 10 false tax returns to the state in an attempt to fraudulently obtain more than \$5,500 in tax refunds. Barksdale unlawfully obtained personal information of victims - including names and social security numbers - and used this information to electronically file the false returns. Each of the returns included fictitious wages and state withholding tax amounts. Barksdale sought to have the refunds directly deposited to bank accounts in his own name, and in the names of others.

The Division of Revenue discovered the fraud during the processing of tax returns. The Division matches and verifies wages and withholding amounts reported on tax returns with information provided by employers.

Judge Wallace sentenced Barksdale to time served, followed by a 4-year term of probation and ordered him to pay restitution in the amount of \$504 to the Division of Revenue, and the costs of prosecution.

This case was prosecuted by the Delaware Attorney General's Office.

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