Fraudulent Tax Preparer Skims From Client's Tax Returns Gets 30 Months in Prison

Raudel Sandoval, a California tax preparer, was sentenced to 30 months in prison for preparing 389 fraudulent federal tax refunds.

Between 2015 and 2018, Sandoval filed tax returns on behalf of his clients that claimed false or inflated amounts of child tax credit, business losses, short term capital losses and other items his clients were not entitled to. Sandoval gave his clients a copy of their correct tax return, but submitted the falsified documents to the IRS, along with bank account numbers and routing numbers to accounts he controlled, so that all the refunds came to him.

He had over 100 bank accounts, some in the names of his clients that he opened without permission, and some with the name, "Federal Tax Refund Processing." He was the only signer on all the accounts. He would then transfer the amount the client was expecting into the client's bank account, and the client would assume it was coming from a legitimate government account.

Sandoval caused the IRS a loss of $758,550 which he must pay back in full in restitution to the IRS.

Trusted Board Member Not so Trustworthy, Caught Embezzling, Faces 10 Years

Deborah Wilzcek, a board member of a YWCA and a Montessori school, pleaded guilty to embezzling from both organizations and filing a false tax return.

Wilzcek had access to the organizations' bank accounts and made unauthorized transfers to her personal accounts. She stole $138,308.35 from the YWCA and $275,643 from the school over several years. She forged the signatures of two principals from the school to make the transfers happen.

She faces up to 10 years in prison and restitution.

Your IRS Questions Answered Here ...

Question: I'm currently separated from my spouse. He owns his own business and we are in the midst of a divorce. I have always filed jointly with my husband and now the IRS is sending me notices stating I owe $87,000. I have no idea how they are coming up with this amount as my spouse always took care of paying the IRS what was owed.

Answer: You may be able to avoid this liability entirely under the IRS's Innocent Spouse Relief rules. Under federal law, if an income tax return is signed by both husband and wife, both spouses are 100% responsible for the taxes owed. However, the law permits special consideration where a spouse cannot be held responsible for the underreporting of income or the understatement of tax that is attributable to the other spouse.

If you meet the following criteria, you may be able to apply for Equitable Relief under the IRS's innocent spouse rules: if the amount reported on your joint tax return is correct but wasn't paid with the return, you may be eligible. Or, if you feel you were deceived by your spouse or tricked into signing a return you thought was correct, this will help your case too. There are many other ways you may be eligible for relief under the IRS's innocent spouse rules, and we can help sort this out and determine the proper path for resolution.

At **Signature Wealth and Tax**, we deal with tax problem resolution and help taxpayers with their IRS problems on a regular basis. **There is a solution for every problem**. Call us today @ **702-655-3333**.

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