



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

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAN ANTONIO MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON  
FOR PREPARING FALSE FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURNS**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that 54-year old Willie Clark, Jr., was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison for preparing fraudulent Federal income tax returns for a period of one year beginning in April 2000.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Royal Furgeson ordered Clark to pay \$1,000 in special assessments and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term.

Last November, a federal jury convicted Clark of five counts of preparing false Federal income tax returns and five counts of filing false claims against the United States. The jury found that Clark billed himself as a Federal tax return preparer who could do a better job than most others and who guaranteed his customers a refund. In return for his services, Clark charged a flat fee of between \$100-\$250 as well as a percentage of the refund, normally between 10-25%. Clark also convinced customers to file amended tax returns from previous years in order to collect additional refunds.

Evidence presented during trial revealed that the returns he prepared claimed large losses from mostly non-existent businesses. Despite preparing the returns, Clark refused to sign as the preparer and did not go over the tax returns with the taxpayers before filing. Once this case was being investigated, Clark disavowed knowing the taxpayers, but various evidence tied him to the returns including fingerprints, documents recovered from his trash, electronic filing evidence, handwriting analysis, and of course the statements of the taxpayers. The government presented evidence that Clark made false claims on 23 tax returns he prepared which totaled \$137,014.

This case was investigated by the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, and the United States Postal Inspector. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Bill Harris.

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