



Bill Richardson
Governor
Jan Goodwin
Secretary

December 13, 2005

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Taxation and Revenue Department

An Equal Opportunity Employer

DIVISIONS

Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2296
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800
Tax Fraud Investigations
(505) 841-6544

Kathleen Baca
(505) 827-0313

Albuquerque Man Convicted of Tax Evasion

SANTA FE -- An Albuquerque man pleaded guilty in State District court on December 9, to two counts of tax evasion and will be required to pay back taxes plus penalties and interest.

Judge Stephen Pfeffer sentenced Phillip Sierra, 42, to three years of supervised probation for tax evasion for the tax years 2001, 2002, or 2003. The New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division (TFID) investigated the case.

As a condition of probation, Sierra is required to file New Mexico Personal Income Tax returns for the tax years 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 and to pay all taxes plus penalties and interest. Sierra told the court he had been advised by his tax preparer, who is not a CPA, that he was not required to pay taxes.

"New Mexicans should be wary of anyone who tells them that they do not need to pay income taxes," said Jan Goodwin, Secretary of Taxation and Revenue. "I encourage anyone who has questions regarding their tax return to call their local Taxation and Revenue District office."

Secretary Goodwin created TFID in 2003 in order to deter and prosecute tax violations. To date TFID has assisted the state in recouping over \$3.2 million in unpaid taxes; referred 28 criminal tax investigations to the New Mexico District Attorney's Office and is currently investigating over 50 additional criminal tax cases.

To report tax fraud against the state of New Mexico please call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.