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## Jefferson County Man Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud

David W. Zehnder, 55, a Fort Atkinson accountant, pled guilty in Jefferson County to four felony counts of filing fraudulent Wisconsin income tax returns and one felony count of theft.

According to the [criminal complaint](#), Zehnder operated A-Z Productivity, Inc., a tax preparation firm. As a tax return preparer, Zehnder knowingly filed at least 83 false Wisconsin income tax returns by overstating the itemized deduction credits on his customers' returns. In doing so, Zehnder overstated the credits by \$73,910. Zehnder also stole, or attempted to steal, \$32,312 of customers' refunds by diverting a portion of the tax refunds into accounts he controlled.

As part of his bond conditions, Zehnder was ordered not to prepare any state or federal tax returns for others. This condition was extended until sentencing. The sentencing for these crimes is scheduled for November 19, 2019. He could face up to 34 years in prison, a \$65,000 fine, or both.

Zehnder was charged by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, in Jefferson County, after an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Office of Criminal Investigation.

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