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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Fort Atkinson Tax Return Preparer Charged with Stealing His Customers' Tax Refunds and Filing False Tax Returns**

David W. Zehnder, a Fort Atkinson accountant, was charged with four felonies for filing false income tax returns with fraudulent claims for credit and one felony charge for theft of customers' tax refunds.

According to the [criminal complaint](#), Zehnder operated A-Z Productivity, Inc., a tax preparation firm. The complaint alleges that over the period of 2013 to 2017, Zehnder prepared and filed at least 83 fraudulent federal and Wisconsin income tax returns and, on many of those returns, he falsified the itemized deduction credits in order to increase customer refunds. The complaint also alleges that as part of the scheme, Zehnder stole, or attempted to steal, \$32,312 of his customers' refunds.

Criminal charges were filed in Jefferson County on February 22, 2019 by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Attorney General's Office following an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Office of Criminal Investigation. If convicted, Zehnder could face up to 34 years in prison, a \$65,000 fine, or both.

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