

# Alabama Department of Revenue

News Release

Sept. 27, 2007

## Jury Finds Mobile County Tax Preparer Guilty

*Mobile*— On Sept. 25, 2007, a Mobile County Circuit Court jury convicted Rafus Jones, also known as Rayford Jones, of ten counts of willfully aiding, assisting, and counseling in the preparation of false Alabama income tax returns.

Jones, 52, of 1303 East Gulffield Drive, Mobile, Ala., was convicted by a jury that deliberated for less than one hour.

During the day and a half trial, evidence submitted by prosecutors showed that Jones, a former Alabama Department of Medicaid caseworker who operated a part-time tax return preparer service during April 2001 through April 2004, sold names and social security numbers of Alabama minors to his clients for a charge of \$800 per name and number. Evidence further showed that Jones used that information to prepare fraudulent Alabama income tax returns for those clients, which helped them obtain larger income tax refunds.

Jones is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 31, 2007, in Mobile County Circuit Court by Judge James C. Wood. At sentencing, Jones faces a maximum possible sentence of 30 years in prison and \$1 million in fines.

This case was investigated by the Alabama Department of Medicaid, Mobile County District Attorney's Office, and the Alabama Department of Revenue.

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