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Demesia Padilla, CPA Cabinet Secretary

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Albuquerque Tax Preparer Indicted For Identity Theft

ALBUQUERQUE, **N.M.** – A Tax Preparer from Albuquerque has been indicted for filing fraudulent tax returns using stolen identities.

Flora Mascarenas, 54, was charged with two counts of identity theft, two counts of forgery and two counts of computer access with intent to defraud or embezzle, all felonies. These charges carry a maximum sentence of 9 years in prison and \$30,000 in fines.

Mascarenas was indicted by a Bernalillo County Grand Jury in the Second Judicial District of New Mexico.

"With tax season upon us, this case should serve as a reminder to tax professionals across the state; if you cheat the system, you will be held accountable," said Demesia Padilla, Cabinet Secretary for the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. "This Department is committed to catching those who attempt to defraud the State of New Mexico."

In 2011 and 2012, Mascarenas allegedly filed false electronic New Mexico Personal Income Tax Returns with the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department utilizing personal identifying information of individuals without their authorization or consent.

This case was investigated by the Tax Fraud Investigations Division of the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department. To report tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789 or e-mail tax.fraud@state.nm.us.