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Doctor Avoids Prison for Not Paying Taxes

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FORT LAUDERDALE – Dr. Joseph Fanfan’s precipitous fall from a “man of vision” in the Haitian-American medical community to a convicted tax cheat ended with a soft landing Wednesday as Fanfan convinced a federal judge to spare him from a prison sentence.

For the next month, Fanfan, 52, will be wearing an electronic bracelet at his Sunrise Boulevard office and living at home, and for five months hereafter he will have to stay at a halfway house.

But Fanfan, who admitted that he failed to pay \$179,168 in taxes between 1994 and 1997 – he never even filed a tax return for those years – will be allowed to continue working as one of the most prominent general practitioners for Broward County’s Haitian population.

His attorney, Joel Hirschhorn, argued that Fanfan fell victim to success, living “the good life” to a point where he couldn’t afford to pay his taxes and was afraid to file. Fanfan must now set about paying back his taxes. He had paid none of the \$179,000 and the government says he also owes more than \$90,000 in taxes in 1993.