



MULLEN
COUGHLIN^{LLC}
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April 15, 2022

VIA E-MAIL

Office of the Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202
E-mail: idtheft@oag.state.md.us

Re: Notice of Data Event

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent White & McClung, LLC (“White & McClung”) located at 218 South Three Notch Street, P.O. Box 281, Andalusia, Alabama, 36420, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to one (1) Maryland resident. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, White & McClung does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, the applicability of the Maryland data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

On March 29, 2022, White & McClung discovered that a limited set of tax returns were prematurely filed with the IRS. With the assistance of leading third-party cyber security specialists, White & McClung immediately launched an investigation to determine what caused the premature filings and how its clients may be affected. White & McClung also promptly notified the issue to the IRS and is cooperating with its investigation. While the investigation into the full nature and scope of the incident remains ongoing, it was recently determined that an unauthorized actor gained access to White & McClung’s network. It was also determined that a limited set of 2021 tax returns were electronically filed and/or modified by an unauthorized actor. While the investigation remains underway, White & McClung is notifying the individuals whose 2021 tax returns were identified as impacted to date.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, Social Security number, wage/income information, and financial account information.

Notice to Maryland Resident

On April 15, 2022, White & McClung began providing written notice of this incident to one Maryland resident. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***. As the investigation is ongoing, White & McClung may supplement this notification if it is determined that a significant amount of additional Maryland residents will receive notice.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, White & McClung moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of White & McClung systems, and identify potentially affected individuals. Further, White & McClung notified federal law enforcement regarding the event. White & McClung is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. White & McClung is providing access to credit monitoring services for one (1) year, through IDX, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, White & McClung is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud. White & McClung is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud. White & McClung is providing written notice of this incident to relevant state regulators, as necessary.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-2297.

Very truly yours,



Michele Veltri of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

MTV/jcj
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A



P. O. Box 281 218 S Three Notch Street
Andalusia, Alabama 36420
www.whiteandmcclungcpa.com

Telephone (334) 222-2907

Fax (334) 427-1818

April 11, 2022

NOTICE OF SECURITY INCIDENT

Dear [Individual]:

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for the confidence you have placed in our firm to help meet your tax filing needs. We value the relationships that we have developed with you and others.

As has been explained to you, it has come to our attention that your personal income tax returns (Federal and State) were impacted by a network security event, and that information related to you was possibly stolen in or about March 2022. We discovered this event on March 29, 2022, and immediately took steps to launch an investigation into the full nature and scope of this event. The information that may have been impacted by this event includes your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, wage/income information, and financial account information, as provided to us for purposes of filing your tax return(s).

White & McClung takes this event and the security of your information seriously. Upon learning of the event, we moved quickly to investigate and respond with the assistance of third-party cyber-security specialists. The investigation and response, to date, includes evaluating the security of our systems, notifying the IRS, and cooperating with its investigation and its plans for correcting the impacted tax returns. We are also notifying relevant law enforcement and regulators. Each of these conversations has led to certain steps being taken to protect you.

Because of this event, you will be required to file paper returns this year. Those have been provided to you and await your signature. It is likely that the processing of your return will be delayed many months by the IRS and the state – resulting in a delay in your receipt of your refund. Our firm will advance your anticipated refund(s) at 0 interest, with repayment being due upon the ultimate receipt of your refund from the IRS or state. White & McClung also offers – at our expense – twelve months of credit monitoring through IDX. We encourage you to enroll to receive the complimentary credit monitoring, fraud consultation, and identity theft restoration services. White & McClung is making these services available to you; however, you will need to enroll yourself in these services as we are unable to do so on your behalf.

Finally, we are waiving our fee for services in the preparation of your 2021 income tax returns.

We encourage you to remain vigilant against identity theft and fraud by reviewing your card and account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Please also review the information contained in the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Further Protect Personal Information*.

We understand that you may have questions about this event that are not addressed in this letter. If you have additional questions, please call us at [phone number], between [office hours], Monday through Friday. You may also write to us at 218 South Three Notch Street, P.O. Box 281, Andalusia, Alabama, 36420.

Thank you again for your business. We have taken precautions – strengthening our security and tightening our procedures – to lessen the risk of this sort of event happening in the future. We certainly anticipate many more years of working with you and your family!

Sincerely,

Shon McClung, Partner

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP FURTHER PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring and Restoration

To enroll online, visit <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using the following Enrollment Code: <<assigned enrollment code>>. The deadline for enrolling is December 1, 2022.

Activate the credit monitoring provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.

Contact IDX at 1-800-939-4170 to speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify IDX immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of the ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop, and reverse the damage quickly.

IDX Identity will include a one-year enrollment into the following service components:

SINGLE BUREAU CREDIT MONITORING - Monitoring of credit bureau for changes to the member's credit file such as new credit inquiries, new accounts opened, delinquent payments, improvements in the member's credit report, bankruptcies, court judgments and tax liens, new addresses, new employers, and other activities that affect the member's credit record.

CYBERSCAN™ - Dark Web monitoring of underground websites, chat rooms, and malware, 24/7, to identify trading or selling of personal information like SSNs, bank accounts, email addresses, medical ID numbers, driver's license numbers, passport numbers, credit and debit cards, phone numbers, and other unique identifiers.

IDENTITY THEFT INSURANCE - Identity theft insurance will reimburse members for expenses associated with restoring their identity should they become a victim of identity theft. If a member's identity is compromised, the policy provides coverage for up to \$1,000,000, with no deductible, from an A.M. Best "A-rated" carrier. Coverage is subject to the terms, limits, and/or exclusions of the policy.

FULLY-MANAGED IDENTITY RECOVERY - ID Experts' fully-managed recovery service provides restoration for identity theft issues such as (but not limited to): account creation, criminal identity theft, medical identity theft, account takeover, rental application, tax fraud, benefits fraud, and utility creation. This service includes a complete triage process for affected individuals who report suspicious activity, a personally assigned IDCare Specialist to fully manage restoration of each case, and expert guidance for those with questions about identity theft and protective measures.

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of your credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a “credit freeze” on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer’s express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver’s license or ID card, etc.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-833-395-6938
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Additional Information

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or

suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and www.oag.state.md.us.