



MULLEN
COUGHLIN_{LLC}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Christopher J. DiIenno
Office: (267) 930-4775
Fax: (267) 930-4771
Email: cdiiienno@mullen.law

426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
Devon, PA 19333

September 2, 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 Billings & Mensen located at 111 East Reed Street, P.O. Box 76, Red Oak, IA 51566, 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. This notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice, Billings & Mensen 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 or about February 1, 2022, Billings & Mensen became aware of suspicious activity relating to a small number of tax filings. Billings & Mensen immediately launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, to determine the nature and scope of any potential suspicious activity in its systems. Billings & Mensen's investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to certain affected systems from January 4, 2022 to February 15, 2022. Billings & Mensen ensured the systems were secure and then reviewed the contents of the affected systems to determine what, if any, sensitive information was contained within them. On July 20, 2022, Billings & Mensen confirmed the identities of impacted individuals whose sensitive information was contained in the affected email accounts.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, Social Security number, driver's license number, financial account information, government-issued identification number, state identification card number, and date of birth.

Notice to Maryland Resident

On or about September 2, 2022, Billings & Mensen provided written notice of this incident to one (1) Maryland resident. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, Billings & Mensen moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of Billings & Mensen systems, and identify potentially affected individuals. Billings & Mensen is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. Billings & Mensen is providing access to credit monitoring services for twelve (12) months, through Equifax, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, Billings & Mensen is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud. Billings & Mensen is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, 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.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4775.

Very truly yours,



Christopher J. DiIenno of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

CJD:bwt
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A

Law Office Of
BILLINGS & MENSEN

LaVon E. Billings (1930-2004)
Brian S. Mensen
Ivan E. Miller

111 E. Reed St.
PO Box 76
Red Oak, IA 51566

Telephone: (712) 623-4844
Fax: (712) 623-4133
bmensen@iabar.org
www.billingsandmensenredoak.com

[Name]
[Address]
[City, State, Zip]

[Date]

RE: Notice of Data Breach

Dear [Name of Affected Individual]:

Billings & Mensen writes to notify you of an incident that may affect the privacy of some of your information. We take this incident seriously, and this letter provides details of the incident, our response, and steps you may take to better protect against possible misuse of your personal information, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened? Billings & Mensen became aware of suspicious activity in certain computer systems. We immediately launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, to determine the nature and scope of the activity. Our investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the affected systems from January 4, 2022 to February 15, 2022. We reviewed the contents of the affected systems to determine what, if any, sensitive information was contained within them. On July 20, 2022, Billings & Mensen's review determined that the affected systems contained certain information related to you.

What Information Was Involved? Billings & Mensen determined that the following information related to you was present in the affected systems at the time of this incident: your name and [data elements]. If your spouse and/or dependent's information was impacted by this event, we are also mailing them a letter.

What is Billings & Mensen Doing? Billings & Mensen takes the confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in our care seriously. Upon discovery, we immediately commenced an investigation to confirm the nature and scope of the incident. We are taking steps to implement additional safeguards and review policies and procedures relating to data privacy and security to best ensure this does not happen again.

Billings & Mensen is providing you with access to 12 months of credit monitoring and identity protection services through Equifax at no cost to you. A description of services and instructions on how to enroll can be found within the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. Please note that you must complete the enrollment process yourself, as we are not permitted to enroll you in these services on your behalf.

What You Can Do. You can review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. You can also enroll to receive the complimentary credit monitoring and identity

protection services through Equifax. We also encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity.

For More Information. We understand you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. To ensure your questions are answered in a timely manner, please contact [Contact Name] at [Phone Number].

Billings & Mensen takes the privacy and security of the information in our care seriously. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "BSM", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian S. Mensen
Billings & Mensen

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud

Enroll in Credit Monitoring



<FIRST NAME> <LAST NAME>

Enter your Activation Code: <ACTIVATION CODE>

Enrollment Deadline: November 30, 2022

Equifax Complete™ Premier

*Note: You must be over age 18 with a credit file to take advantage of the product

Key Features

- Annual access to your 3-bureau credit report and VantageScore¹ credit scores
- Daily access to your Equifax credit report and 1-bureau VantageScore credit score
- 3-bureau credit monitoring² with email notifications of key changes to your credit reports
- WebScan notifications³ when your personal information, such as Social Security Number, credit/debit card or bank account numbers are found on fraudulent Internet trading sites
- Automatic fraud alerts⁴, which encourages potential lenders to take extra steps to verify your identity before extending credit, plus blocked inquiry alerts and Equifax credit report lock⁵
- Identity Restoration to help restore your identity should you become a victim of identity theft, and a dedicated Identity Restoration Specialist to work on your behalf
- Up to \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance coverage for certain out of pocket expenses resulting from identity theft⁶.
- Lost Wallet Assistance if your wallet is lost or stolen, and one-stop assistance in canceling and reissuing credit, debit and personal identification cards.

Enrollment Instructions

Go to www.equifax.com/activate

Enter your unique Activation Code of <ACTIVATION CODE> then click "Submit" and follow these 4 steps:

1. **Register:**

Complete the form with your contact information and click "Continue".

If you already have a myEquifax account, click the 'Sign in here' link under the "Let's get started" header.

Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4

2. **Create Account:**

Enter your email address, create a password, and accept the terms of use.

3. **Verify Identity:**

To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.

4. **Checkout:**

Upon successful verification of your identity, you will see the Checkout Page.

Click 'Sign Me Up' to finish enrolling.

You're done!

The confirmation page shows your completed enrollment.
Click "View My Product" to access the product features.

¹The credit scores provided are based on the VantageScore® 3.0 model. For three-bureau VantageScore credit scores, data from Equifax®, Experian®, and TransUnion® are used respectively. Any one-bureau VantageScore uses Equifax data. Third parties use many different types of credit scores and are likely to use a different type of credit score to assess your creditworthiness. ²Credit monitoring from Experian and TransUnion will take several days to begin. ³WebScan searches for your Social Security Number, up to 5 passport numbers, up to 6 bank account numbers, up to 6 credit/debit card numbers, up to 6 email addresses, and up to 10 medical ID numbers. WebScan searches thousands of Internet sites where consumers' personal information is suspected of being bought and sold, and regularly adds new sites to the list of those it searches. However, the Internet addresses of these suspected Internet trading sites are not published and frequently change, so there is no guarantee that we are able to locate and search every possible Internet site where consumers' personal information is at risk of being traded. ⁴The Automatic Fraud Alert feature is made available to consumers by Equifax Information Services LLC and fulfilled on its behalf by Equifax Consumer Services LLC. ⁵Locking your Equifax credit report will prevent access to it by certain third parties. Locking your Equifax credit report will not prevent access to your credit report at any other credit reporting agency. Entities that may still have access to your Equifax credit report include: companies like Equifax Global Consumer Solutions, which provide you with access to your credit report or credit score, or monitor your credit report as part of a subscription or similar service; companies that provide you with a copy of your credit report or credit score, upon your request; federal, state and local government agencies and courts in certain circumstances; companies using the information in connection with the underwriting of insurance, or for employment, tenant or background screening purposes; companies that have a current account or relationship with you, and collection agencies acting on behalf of those whom you owe; companies that authenticate a consumer's identity for purposes other than granting credit, or for investigating or preventing actual or potential fraud; and companies that wish to make pre-approved offers of credit or insurance to you. To opt out of such pre-approved offers, visit www.optoutprescreen.co. ⁶The Identity Theft Insurance benefit is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company, under group or blanket policies issued to Equifax, Inc., or its respective affiliates for the benefit of its Members. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one (1) free credit report annually from each of the three (3) 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 (3) 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 one (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 (7) years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the three (3) 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 (2) to five (5) 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, military identification, 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 fraud alert or 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, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and www.oag.state.md.us. Billings & Mensen is located at 111 East Reed Street, P.O. Box 76, Red Oak, IA 51566.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.