



MULLEN
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March 30, 2023

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

To Whom It May Concern:

We represent Ara Haddadian CPA located at 290 E Verdugo Ave Suite #204, Burbank, California 91502, and write to notify your office of an event that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to approximately three (3) Maryland residents. By providing this notice, Mr. Haddadian 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 February 15, 2023, portable hard drives containing data backups of Mr. Haddadian's computer system were stolen from his personal vehicle. Upon discovery, Mr. Haddadian immediately reported the theft to local law enforcement and initiated an internal investigation to determine the scope of any potential impact. While Mr. Haddadian continues to cooperate with the ongoing law enforcement investigation, it is possible the drives may not be recovered.

In an abundance of caution, Mr. Haddadian undertook an extensive review of his firm's records to determine which clients' information may have been contained on the drives so that they could be informed of the theft. Mr. Haddadian recently concluded the review and confirmed contact information for the clients to provide formal notifications.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access for Maryland residents includes name, Social Security number, health insurance information, and account and/or routing number.

Notice to Maryland Residents

On February 25, 2023, Mr. Haddadian began providing preliminary notice of the event to clients while the investigation was ongoing. On March 30, 2023, Mr. Haddadian provided formal written notice of this event to potentially affected individuals, including approximately three (3) Maryland residents. 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 theft, Mr. Haddadian immediately notified local law enforcement and has been assisting with the ongoing investigation. Additionally, Mr. Haddadian moved quickly to assess the impact to data and identify potentially affected individuals. In an abundance of caution, Mr. Haddadian is providing access to credit monitoring and identity restoration services for twenty-four (24) months, through Experian, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this event, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, Mr. Haddadian is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. Mr. Haddadian 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.

Mr. Haddadian is also providing written notice of this event to other appropriate regulatory authorities.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4802.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Sica, III of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

SZS/jc2
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A

March 30, 2023



J2329-L01-0000001 T00001 P001 *****SCH 5-DIGIT 12345

SAMPLE A SAMPLE - L01 ADULT

APT ABC

123 ANY STREET

ANYTOWN, ST 12345-6789



[Notice of Data Breach]

Dear Sample A. Sample:

I write to inform you of a recent event that may affect the security of certain of your personal information that was maintained by my accounting firm. While I have received no indications of actual misuse of your information as a result of this event, this letter provides information about the event, the response, and resources available to you to help protect your information from possible misuse, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened? On February 15, 2023, portable hard drives containing data backups of my firm's computer system were stolen from my personal vehicle. Upon discovery, I immediately reported the theft to local law enforcement and initiated an internal investigation to determine the scope of any potential impact. While I continue to cooperate with the ongoing law enforcement investigation, it is possible the drives may not be recovered. In an abundance of caution, I undertook an extensive review of my firm's records to determine which clients' information may have been contained on the drives so I could inform them of the theft. I recently concluded my review and confirmed contact information for my clients to provide notifications.

What Information Was Involved? My investigation determined that the stolen hard drives may have contained your name and [data elements].

What We Are Doing. The confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in my firm's care are among my highest priorities, and I take this event very seriously. Although I do not have any indication of identity theft or fraud as a result of this event, I am offering complimentary credit monitoring and identity restoration services through Experian for twenty-four (24) months as an added precaution. I also reported this event to law enforcement and assisted with their investigation.

What You Can Do. I encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud and to review your account statements and free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Additional information and resources are included in the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Protect Personal Information*. You may also enroll in the complementary credit monitoring services available to you. Enrollment instructions are enclosed with this letter.



For More Information. If you have additional questions, please call the dedicated assistance line at (833) 549-2142, toll-free Monday through Friday from 6 am – 8 pm Pacific, or Saturday and Sunday from 8 am – 5 pm Pacific (excluding major U.S. holidays). Be prepared to provide engagement number B088298. You may also write to me at 290 E. Verdugo Ave, Suite 204, Burbank, California 91502.

Sincerely,

Ara Haddadian

Ara Haddadian, CPA

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

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 one-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. You should be aware, however, 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	1-800-916-8800
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

Enroll in Credit Monitoring

To help protect your identity, I am offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for twenty-four (24) months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred



from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for twenty-four (24) months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is immediately available to you, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary twenty-four (24)-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you **enroll by June 30, 2023** (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/credit>
- Provide your **activation code: ABCDEFGHI**

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident, or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at (833) 549-2142 by June 30, 2023. Be prepared to provide engagement number B088298 as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

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. 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 District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag.dc.gov.

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.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting bureaus must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violator. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For New York residents, the New York Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; or <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

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.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; www.riag.ri.gov; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. There are 0 Rhode Island residents impacted by this event.

