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July 21, 2023

VIA E-MAIL (Idtheft@oag.state.md.us)

Anthony Brown
Office of the Maryland Attorney General
Attn: Security Breach Notification
200 St. Paul Place
Baltimore, MD 21202

Re: TRJ Accounting, Inc. – Incident Notification

Dear Mr. Brown:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents TRJ Accounting, Inc. (“TRJ Accounting”) located at 409 Pond St., Suite 11, Braintree, MA 02184. I am writing to provide notification of an incident related to TRJ Accounting that may affect the security of personal information of three (3) Maryland residents. By providing this notice, TRJ Accounting does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

On around February 23, 2023 TRJ Accounting was first made aware that a subset of its clients were subject to fraudulent tax returns. Upon detecting the incident, TRJ Accounting commenced an immediate and thorough investigation. As part of the investigation, TRJ Accounting worked to identify what personal information, if any, might have been present in the accessed systems. TRJ Accounting also reached out to and worked with both the impacted clients and the Internal Revenue Service regarding the fraudulent returns.

After an extensive investigation, TRJ Accounting determined on June 21, 2023 that there was evidence of malicious code present on systems containing personal information between November 15, 2022 and December 19, 2022. The information includes full names, Social Security numbers, financial account information, and health insurance information.

TRJ Accounting provided the affected Maryland residents with written notification of this incident commencing on July 21, 2023, in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto.

Other than the previously mentioned clients, TRJ is not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of personal information as a direct result of this incident for the majority of the notified individuals. However, out of an abundance of caution, TRJ Accounting wanted to inform your Office (and the affected residents) of the incident. Notified individuals have been

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provided with best practices to protect their information, including but not limited to complimentary credit monitoring services, which were provided to notified individuals.

At TRJ Accounting, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. TRJ Accounting is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken precautions to safeguard it. TRJ Accounting continually evaluates and modifies its practices to enhance the security and privacy of the personal information it maintains.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1356 or dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com.

Sincerely,



Dominic A. Paluzzi

Encl.

TRJ Accounting, Inc.
c/o Cyberscout
1 Keystone Ave., Unit 700
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
DB07687 7-1

TRJ Accounting, Inc.



July 21, 2023

Dear [REDACTED]:

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to TRJ Accounting, Inc. ("TRJ Accounting"). We are writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident that involved some of your information. We want to provide you with information about the incident, inform you about the services we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

TRJ Accounting has discovered an issue with a subset of our clients' returns that we believe may have resulted from unauthorized access into our network.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we coordinated with the IRS and immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. Through the investigation into the incident, TRJ Accounting discovered on June 21, 2023, that between November 15, 2022 – December 19, 2022, an unauthorized party may have obtained access to parts of our network which contained files including your personal information.

What Information Was Involved.

The impacted files at risk contain some of your personal information, specifically your name, [REDACTED].

What You Can Do.

To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering a complimentary [REDACTED] months membership of **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score** services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for [REDACTED] months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services.

This letter also provides precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and Security Freeze on your credit files, and obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We remain fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED]. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Eastern time, excluding holidays.

Sincerely,
TRJ Accounting, Inc.

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. Enrolling in Complimentary [REDACTED]-Month Credit Monitoring.

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to [REDACTED] and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [REDACTED].

In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary [REDACTED]-month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial one (1) year “fraud alert” on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax

P.O. Box 105788

Atlanta, GA 30348

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>

(800) 525-6285

Experian

P.O. Box 9554

Allen, TX 75013

<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>

(888) 397-3742

TransUnion LLC

P.O. Box 6790

Fullerton, CA 92834-6790

<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>

(800) 680-7289

3. Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a “security freeze” be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze

P.O. Box 105788

Atlanta, GA 30348

<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>

(800) 349-9960

Experian Security Freeze

P.O. Box 9554

Allen, TX 75013

<http://experian.com/freeze>

(888) 397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze

P.O. Box 2000

Chester, PA 19016

<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

(888) 909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you’ll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

5. Additional Helpful Resources.

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name, or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the city in which you currently reside.

6. Reporting Identity Fraud to the IRS.

If your attempt to file your federal tax returns electronically was rejected or if you received a notice from the IRS indicating someone was otherwise using your Social Security number, it is recommended that you do the following:

- **File an Identity Theft Affidavit (Form 14039) with the IRS (the form can be downloaded at: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f14039.pdf>)**
 - *Instructions for Form 14039* – In Section A check box 1. / In Section B check box 2. / Insert this in the “Please provide an explanation” box: I receive notice that my name and Social Security number may have been used to file a fraudulent tax return that was accepted by the IRS and/or state tax agency.
 - This form should be mailed or faxed to the IRS: Internal Revenue Service, Fresno, CA 93888-0025; 855-807-5720
- Call the IRS at (800) 908-4490, ext. 245 to report the situation (the unit office is open Monday through Friday from 7 am to 7 pm); and/or
- File a police report with your local police department. It may be appropriate to provide a copy of this letter.

Additional information regarding preventing tax-related identity theft can be found at: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Identity-Protection>.

For further information and guidance from the IRS about tax-related identity theft, please visit: <https://www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft> (Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft) and <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5027.pdf> (IRS Publication 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers).

You may request an IRS Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) at <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>. An IP PIN is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS. It helps IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return.

Maryland Residents: You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer, Telephone: 888-743-0023.

New York Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755.

North Carolina Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000.

Rhode Island Residents: You may contact law enforcement, such as the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, to report incidents of identity theft or to learn about steps you can take to protect yourself from identity theft. You can contact the Rhode Island Attorney General at: Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, 401-274-4400.

Oregon Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General's Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 877-877-9392.

As noted above, you may obtain a security freeze on your credit report to protect your privacy and ensure that credit is not granted in your name without your knowledge. You have a right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report pursuant to chapter 48 of title 6 of the Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2006.

The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. When you place a security freeze on your credit report, within five (5) business days you will be provided a personal identification number or password to use if you choose to remove the freeze on your credit report or to temporarily authorize the release of your credit report for a specific period of time after the freeze is in place. To provide that authorization, you must contact the consumer reporting agency and provide all of the following:

1. The unique personal identification number or password provided by the consumer reporting agency.
2. Proper identification to verify your identity.
3. The proper information regarding the period of time for which the report shall be available to users of the credit report.

A consumer reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to temporarily lift a freeze on a credit report shall comply with the request no later than three (3) business days after receiving the request.

A security freeze does not apply to circumstances where you have an existing account relationship and a copy of your report is requested by your existing creditor or its agents or affiliates for certain types of an account review, collection, fraud control, or similar activities.

If you are actively seeking a new credit, loan, utility, telephone, or insurance account, you should understand that the procedures involved in lifting a security freeze may slow your own applications for credit. You should plan ahead and lift a freeze -- either completely, if you are shopping around, or specifically for a certain creditor -- with enough advance notice before you apply for new credit for the lifting to take effect.

You have a right to bring a civil action against someone who violates your rights under the credit reporting laws. The action can be brought against a consumer reporting agency or a user of your credit report.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. These agencies can be contacted using the contact information provided above.

In order to request a security freeze, you may need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Complete address;
5. Prior addresses;
6. Proof(s) of identification (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, birth certificate, etc.);
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

There were 15 Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.