



Ryan M. Cook
1020 Highland Colony Parkway, Suite 310
Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157
Ryan.Cook@lewisbrisbois.com

August 16, 2023

Via electronic-mail: *ldtheft@oag.state.md.us*

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

Re: Our Client: Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC
Matter: 2023 Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We represent Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC ("FSCS"), headquartered in Lansing, Michigan, with respect to a data security incident described in more detail below. FSCS takes the security and privacy of the information in its control seriously, and has taken steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.

This letter will serve to inform you of the nature of the security incident, what information may have been compromised, the number of Maryland residents being notified, and the steps that FSCS has taken in response to this incident. We have also enclosed hereto a sample of the notification made to the potentially impact individuals, which includes an offer of free credit monitoring.

1. Nature of the Security Incident

On January 7, 2023, FSCS detected and stopped a network security incident. FSCS immediately shut off all access to the network and engaged a specialized third-party forensic incident response firm to assist with securing the environment. FSCS's network has been secured and remediated. FSCS initiated a comprehensive investigation into what sensitive data could have been compromised.

Although FSCS found no evidence that individuals' personal information has been specifically misused, it is possible that individual's name, social security number, driver's license/ID numbers could have been exposed to the cybercriminal. As of this writing, FSCS has not received any reports of related identity theft since the discovery of the incident.

2. Maryland Residents Notified

A total of three (3) Maryland residents were potentially affected by this security incident. Notification letters were mailed to these individuals on August 3, 2023 by first class mail. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this letter.

3. Steps Taken

Upon detecting this incident, FSCS moved quickly to initiate a response, which included remediating the vulnerability and conducting a comprehensive investigation into the incident. FSCS has reported this incident to law enforcement. FSCS has reviewed and altered its policies and procedures relating to the security of its systems and servers.

Although FSCS is not aware of any evidence of misuse of personal information, FSCS extended to potentially impacted individuals an offer for free credit monitoring and identity theft protection through Cyberscout. This service will include 12 months of credit monitoring for Maryland residents, along with a fully managed ID theft recovery service, should the need arise.

4. Contact Information

FSCS remains dedicated to protecting the sensitive information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ryan M. Cook, Esq. at: Ryan.Cook@LewisBrisbois.com or 601.826.2604.

Sincerely,



Ryan M. Cook for
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

Enclosure: *Sample notification letter*

RMC

Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC
c/o Cyberscout
1 Keystone Ave., Unit 700
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
DB07196B



August 3, 2023

Via First-Class Mail

Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear [REDACTED],

We are writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have resulted in unauthorized access to your personal information. Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC ("Foster Swift") takes data privacy and security seriously. As such, this letter contains details about the incident and resources to help protect your personal information going forward.

What Happened:

Recently, Foster Swift detected and stopped a network security incident that involved an unauthorized party gaining access to our network environment. Upon detecting the incident, Foster Swift promptly engaged third-party forensic specialists to assist us with securing the network environment and investigating the extent of unauthorized activity.

An investigation revealed that the following categories of your information may have been exposed: name, address, date of birth, driver's license number and Social Security number. Notably, the types of information affected were different for each individual, and not every individual had all the above listed elements exposed.

If you do not recall any prior communication with Foster Swift, your information may have been transferred to our firm as part of the case files of an attorney previously employed with a different law firm. Where any such transfer was inadvertent, be informed that, your Information has been removed from the Foster Swift system.

To be clear, based on Foster Swift's investigation and in consultation with numerous industry experts, Foster Swift does not believe that the above referenced information has been made public in any manner nor has it been distributed by the unauthorized party. However, out of an abundance of caution, Foster Swift is taking the steps below to further protect your information.

What We Are Doing:

Data security is among Foster Swift's highest priorities, and we are committed to doing everything we can to protect the privacy and security of the personal information in our care. We have implemented measures to strengthen the security of our network environment even more going forward.

Additionally, we are providing you with access to Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for twelve (12) 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.

What You Can Do:

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/fosterswift> 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. Representatives are available for 90 days from the date of this letter, to assist you with questions regarding this incident, between the hours of 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Please call the help line 1-800-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED] and supply the fraud specialist with your unique code listed above.

Also, you will need to reference the enrollment code above when calling or enrolling online, so please do not discard this letter.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering. Cyberscout representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

For More Information:

Enclosed you will find additional materials regarding the resources available to you, and the steps you can take to further protect your personal information.

Please call Cyberscout at 1-800-[REDACTED]-[REDACTED], Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 8:00 pm ET for assistance or for any additional questions you may have.

We appreciate your patience throughout this process.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Coutchie
Chief Operating Officer
Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information

Credit Reports: You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone or online. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years.

Experian	TransUnion	Equifax
P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742	P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 1-800-680-7289	P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-525-6285
www.experian.com/fraud/center.html	www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts	https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and by monitoring your credit report for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Experian	TransUnion	Equifax
P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742	P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872	P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 1-888-298-0045
www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	www.transunion.com/credit-freeze	https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/

File Police Report: You have the right to file or obtain a police report if you experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can generally report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

FTC and Attorneys General: You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.identitytheft.gov, 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338), 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. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement.

For residents of Iowa: State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For residents of Massachusetts: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

For residents of New Mexico: State law advises you to review personal account statements and credit reports, as applicable, to detect errors resulting from the security breach. 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 agencies 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 violators. 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 at 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 residents of Oregon: State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

For residents of Rhode Island: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to file or obtain a police report in regard to this incident.

For residents of Arizona, Colorado, District of Columbia, Illinois, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, and Rhode Island: You can obtain information from the Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft.

Federal Trade Commission - Consumer Response Center: 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20580; 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338); www.identitytheft.gov

Arizona Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section, 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004 1-602-542-5025

Colorado Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection 1300 Broadway, 9th Floor, Denver, CO 80203 1-720-508-6000 www.coag.gov

District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General – Office of Consumer Protection: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; www.oag.dc.gov

Illinois office of the Attorney General - 100 West Randolph Street, Chicago, IL 60601; 1-866-999-5630; www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov

Maryland Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection Division: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; www.oag.state.md.us

New York Office of Attorney General - Consumer Frauds & Protection: The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft>

North Carolina Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection Division: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699; 1-877-566-7226; www.ncdoj.com

Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General - Consumer Protection: 150 South Main St., Providence RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; www.riag.ri.gov

████████████████████