

November 10, 2023

VIA EMAIL

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

On behalf of our client Ellington Management Group (“Ellington”), and pursuant to the Personal Information Protection Act (“PIPA”), Md. CodeAnn. Comm. Law 14-3504, this letter provides notice of a recent data security incident. By providing this notice, Ellington does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, including the applicability of the Maryland data notification laws or personal jurisdiction.

On August 8, 2023, Ellington detected suspicious activity within one (1) of their email accounts. Ellington immediately took steps to address the situation and mitigate risk to its data, including changing passwords, notifying federal law enforcement, and engaging leading cybersecurity professionals for assistance.

Ellington’s investigation determined that for a limited time between July 18, 2023 and August 8, 2023, an unauthorized actor accessed a single Ellington email account for the demonstrated purpose of sending phishing emails. Ellington analyzed the email account and did not find any evidence of data being downloaded, emails being forwarded, or the account being synced to other systems. Out of an abundance of caution, Ellington analyzed all of the data in the email account to identify if any personal information was present and to notify individuals as appropriate. There is currently no evidence that any information has been misused for identity theft or fraud in connection with the incident.

Upon becoming aware of the incident, Ellington immediately implemented measures to further improve the security of our systems and practices. Ellington worked with leading data privacy and security professionals to aid in its response and reported this incident to relevant government agencies and federal law enforcement. Ellington also implemented additional security protocols designed to protect their network, email environment, and systems, and are currently assessing the entirety of their information security program.

Ellington has determined that twelve (12) Maryland residents may have been affected by this data security incident. While the data elements vary by individual, the elements potentially

affected are: name, date of birth, Social Security number, medical information, driver license number, and in only three (3) instances, non-Ellington financial account information. Individual written notification is being provided today, November 10, 2023, and includes an offer of twelve (12) months of cost-free credit monitoring. A copy of the mailed letter provided to potentially affected residents is enclosed.

Sincerely,

OCTILLO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Greene', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Daniel P. Greene, Esq.

Certified Information Privacy Professional, United States (CIPP/US)

Certified Information Privacy Professional, Europe (CIPP/E)

Encl.

Ellington Management Group, L.L.C.

53 Forest Avenue
Old Greenwich, CT 06870
203-698-1200
Fax 203-698-0306

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

<<b2b_text_1(NOTICE OF DATA BREACH - CA residents only)>>

Dear <<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>,

I am writing to inform you that we, Ellington Management Group (“Ellington” or “we”) recently experienced a data incident (“Incident”) which potentially involved your personal information (“Information”). This letter provides you with information about this Incident, our response, steps you can take, and if necessary, information on where to direct your questions. Additionally, although we are unaware of any misuse of your Information or fraud in relation to the Incident, as a precaution we have also provided steps you can take to help protect your Information.

What Happened?

On August 8, 2023, Ellington detected suspicious activity within one (1) of their email accounts. Ellington immediately took steps to address the situation and mitigate risk to its data, including changing passwords, notifying federal law enforcement, and engaging leading cybersecurity professionals for assistance.

Our investigation determined that for a limited time between July 18, 2023, and August 8, 2023, an unauthorized actor accessed a single Ellington email account for the demonstrated purpose of sending phishing emails. We analyzed the email account and did not find any evidence of data being downloaded, emails being forwarded, or the account being synced to other systems. Out of an abundance of caution, we analyzed all of the data in the email account and identified your Information was present. There is currently no evidence that any information has been misused for identity theft or fraud in connection with the Incident.

What Information Was Involved?

Your Information present within the email account contained: <<b2b_text_2(name, data elements)>><<b2b_text_3(data elements)>>.

What We Are Doing.

Upon becoming aware of the Incident, Ellington began an investigation and took steps to reduce risk to data. We are working with a leading data security and privacy firm to aid our investigation and will report this Incident to relevant authorities as appropriate. We also implemented additional security protocols designed to protect our network, email environment, and systems, and are currently assessing the entirety of our information security program.

What Can You Do?

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. You can also activate the identity monitoring services that we are offering at no cost to you. To help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this event, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for twelve (12) months. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until *<<b2b_text_6(activation deadline)>>* to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: *<<Membership Number s_n>>*

For more information about Kroll and your Identity Monitoring services, you can visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

Other Important Information

Please review the “Additional Resources” section included with this letter, which outlines other resources you can utilize to protect your Information.

For More Information.

We take this incident and the security of information in our care seriously. If you have additional questions, you may call our toll-free assistance line at [Kroll TFN](#), Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 6:30 pm Eastern Time (excluding U.S. holidays).

Sincerely,



Daniel Margolis
General Counsel

Encl.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting agencies:

Equifax, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111

Experian, PO Box 2104, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19022, www.transunion.com, 1-800-888-4213

Free Credit Report. It is recommended that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every twelve (12) months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies.

To order your annual 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 from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Fraud Alert. You may place a fraud alert in your file by calling one of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies above. 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.

Security Freeze. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681c-1, you may obtain a security freeze on your credit report, free of charge, to protect your privacy and ensure that credit is not granted in your name without your knowledge. You may also submit a declaration of removal to remove information placed in your credit report as a result of being a victim of identity theft. You have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, free of charge, or submit a declaration of removal pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting and Identity Security Act.

The security freeze will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing any information in your credit report without your express authorization or approval. 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, you will be provided with a personal identification number, password, or similar device to use if you choose to remove the freeze on your credit report or to temporarily authorize the release of your credit report to a specific party or parties or for a specific period of time after the freeze is in place.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may be able to use an online process, an automated telephone line, or a written request to any of the three credit reporting agencies listed above. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, 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, and display your name, current mailing address, and the date of issue.

Federal Trade Commission and State Attorneys General Offices. If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your home state. You may also contact these agencies for information on how to prevent or avoid identity theft.

You may contact the **Federal Trade Commission**, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.ftc.gov/, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

For California and Wyoming Residents: This notification was not delayed as a result of any law enforcement investigation.

For Colorado Residents: You can obtain information from the federal trade commission and the credit reporting agencies about fraud alerts and security freezes.

For Illinois Residents: You can obtain information from the credit reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts and security freezes (contact information above).

For Iowa Residents: You are advised to report suspected incidents of identity theft to your local law enforcement or the Iowa Office of the Attorney General, 1305 E. Walnut Street, Des Moines IA 50319, consumer@ag.iowa.gov, 1-888-777-4590.

For Maryland Residents: You may obtain information about steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the Federal Trade Commission (contact information above) and the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us, 1-888-743-0023.

For New Mexico Residents: Consumers have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their 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 consumers' files is limited; consumers must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; consumers may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance based on information in their credit report; and consumers may seek damages from violators. Consumers 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 consumers to review their 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: You may obtain information regarding security breach response and identity theft prevention and protection information from the Federal Trade Commission (contact information above) and the New York Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, <https://ag.ny.gov>, 1-800-771-7755.

For North Carolina Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Federal Trade Commission (contact information above) and the North Carolina Office of the Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Main Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov, 1-877-566-7266.

For Oregon Residents: You are advised to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Oregon Office of the Attorney General, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301, <https://www.doj.state.or.us/>, (503) 378-6002.

KROLL

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

Single Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

Fraud Consultation

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

Identity Theft Restoration

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge. To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.