

CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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December 5, 2023

Via Email

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

RE: Data Breach Notification

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A. ("JAH") located at 1065 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204. We write to provide notification of a recent data breach. By providing this notice, JAH does not waive any rights or defenses under Maryland law, including the data breach notification statute.

On September 12, 2023, JAH discovered unusual activity on its network. JAH immediately began an investigation, which included working with third-party specialists. The investigation determined an unknown party accessed portions of JAH's network between September 8, 2023 and September 12, 2023. Therefore, JAH conducted a review of its network to determine the type of information contained therein and to whom the information related.

On November 8, 2023, JAH completed its review and began confirming address information to notify individuals. The type of information identified in JAH's review included name and Social Security number. JAH identified approximately one Maryland resident who may have been impacted by this incident.

In response to this incident, JAH conducted an investigation, reviewed its policies and procedures related to data protection, and notified law enforcement. Additionally, JAH provided notice to the potentially impacted individual on December 5, 2023, via U.S. mail. A copy of the notice is attached as **Exhibit A**. In an abundance of caution, JAH is offering the potentially impacted individual complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

Very truly yours,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By:


Michael J. Bonner, Esq.

EXHIBIT A

Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A.
c/o Cyberscout
1 Keystone Ave., Unit 700
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
DB-08172

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

December 5, 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A. writes to notify you of a recent incident that may impact the privacy of certain information provided to us. We take this incident very seriously and are providing you information about the incident, our response, and steps you can take to protect your information.

On September 12, 2023, we discovered unusual activity on our network. We immediately began an investigation, which included working with third-party specialists. Our investigation determined an unknown party accessed portions of our network between September 8, 2023 and September 12, 2023. Therefore, we conducted a review of our network to determine the type of information contained therein and to whom the information related.

On November 8, 2023, we completed our review and began confirming address information to notify individuals. The type of information identified in our review included your name and the following:

[REDACTED].

In response to this incident, we conducted an investigation, reviewed our policies and procedures related to data protection, and notified law enforcement. Additionally, in an abundance of caution, we are providing you access to credit monitoring and identity protection services at no cost to you.

We encourage you to enroll in the credit monitoring and identity protection services we are making available to you. Instructions about how to enroll in these services and additional resources available to you are included in the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Information*.

We understand you may have questions about this incident. You may contact our third-party assistance line at 1-800-405-6108 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, or write to us at 1065 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.

We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you. The privacy of information is important to us, and we will continue to take steps to protect information in our care.

Sincerely,

Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/jahpa> 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.

Monitor Your Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You 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, 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 lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you 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 your 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 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 credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Address for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); 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:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com TransUnion Fraud Alert P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000 TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094	Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com Experian Fraud Alert P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 Experian Credit Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	Equifax 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com Equifax Fraud Alert P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 Equifax Credit Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
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Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

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, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. 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.marylandattorneygeneral.gov. Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A. may be contacted at 1065 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.

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: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) 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 by visiting https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 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 contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; and www.riag.ri.gov. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are no Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

For Washington, D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 441 4th Street NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400, and <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>. Johnston, Allison & Hord, P.A. may be contacted at 1065 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204.