

January 11, 2024

Dominik Cvitanovic
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Via Email:

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

Re: Cybersecurity Incident Involving Cypress Benefits Solutions

Dear Attorney General Frosh:

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman and Dicker LLP (“Wilson Elser”) represents Cypress Benefits Solutions (“Cypress”), an independent employee benefits agency located in 1900 Eastwood Rd, Suite 27 Wilmington, NC 28403 with respect to a recent cybersecurity incident that was first discovered by Cypress May 23, 2023 (hereinafter, the “Incident”). Cypress takes the security and privacy of the information in its control very 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 Incident, what information may have been compromised, the number of residents being notified, and the steps that Cypress has taken in response to the Incident. We have also enclosed hereto a sample of the notification made to the potentially impacted individuals, which includes an offer of free credit monitoring services.

1. Nature of the Incident

On May 23, 2023, Cypress detected unusual activity on one of our email accounts. Upon discovery of this incident, Cypress immediately secured the account and promptly engaged a specialized third-party cybersecurity firm to conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine the nature and scope of the incident. The forensic investigation determined that certain Cypress email accounts may have been compromised by an unauthorized actor. The accounts have since been secured and remediated.

Based on these findings, Cypress performed data mining on the affected systems/accounts to identify the specific individuals and the types of information that may have been compromised. Data mining was completed on December 4, 2023. Cypress immediately began a thorough review of the potentially accessed files to identify the clients whose sensitive information was present at the time of the incident. This step was necessary so that Cypress could send a notice of the incident to ensure the potentially impacted clients are aware of this Incident.

55 West Monroe Street, Suite 3800 • Chicago, IL 60603 • p 312.704.0550 • f 312.704.1522

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On December 5, 2023, Cypress finalized the list of individuals to notify.

Although Cypress is unaware of any fraudulent misuse of information, it is possible that individuals' First Name, Last Name, Telephone Number, Email Address, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Personal Health Information, and for some User ID & Password may have been exposed as a result of this unauthorized activity.

As of this writing, Cypress has not received any reports of related identity theft since the date of the incident May 23, 2023 to present).

2. Number of Maryland residents affected.

A total of 8 (eight) Maryland resident(s) may have been potentially affected by this incident. Notification letters to these individuals were mailed on January 11, 2024, by first class mail. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this letter under **Exhibit A**.

3. Steps taken in response to the Incident.

Data privacy and security is among Cypress'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. Since the discovery of the incident, Cypress moved quickly to investigate, respond, and confirm the security of our systems. Cypress engaged a specialized cybersecurity firm to conduct a forensic investigation to determine the nature and scope of the Incident. Cypress changed all user credentials, enhanced the security measures, and took steps and will continue to take steps to mitigate the risk of future harm. Lastly, Cypress informed our law firm and began identifying the potentially affected individuals in preparation for notice.

Although Cypress is not aware of any actual or attempted misuse of the affected personal information, Cypress offered 12 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity theft restoration services through Transunion to all individuals to help protect their identity. Additionally, Cypress provided guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including providing 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 the contact details for the Federal Trade Commission.



4. Contact information

Cypress 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 me at dominik.cvitanovic@wilsonelser.com or 504.372.6698.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Dominik Cvitanovic

EXHIBIT A

Cypress Benefits Solutions
C/o Cyberscout
1 Keystone Ave., Unit 700
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
DB-08342 1-1



Via First-Class Mail



January 11, 2024

Re: Data Incident

Dear [REDACTED],

Cypress Benefits Solutions (“Cypress”) as your current, former, or prospective insurance broker is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have resulted in an unauthorized access to your sensitive personal information. We are providing you with details about the incident, steps we are taking in response, and resources available to help you protect against the potential misuse of your information. Please be assured Cypress takes the protection and proper use of your personal information very seriously.

What Happened?

On May 20, 2023, Cypress detected unusual activity on one of our email accounts. Upon discovery of this incident, Cypress immediately secured the account and promptly engaged a specialized third-party cybersecurity firm to conduct a comprehensive investigation to determine the nature and scope of the incident. The forensic investigation determined that certain Cypress email accounts may have been compromised by an unauthorized actor. The accounts have since been secured and remediated.

Based on these findings, Cypress performed data mining on the affected systems/accounts to identify the specific individuals and the types of information that may have been compromised. Data mining was completed on December 4, 2023.

On December 5, 2023, Cypress finalized the list of individuals to notify.

What Information Was Involved?

Although Cypress has no evidence that any sensitive information has been misused by third parties as a result of this incident, we are notifying you out of an abundance of caution and for purposes of full transparency. Based on the investigation, the following information related to you may have been subject to unauthorized access: date of birth, Social Security number, and health information.

What We Are Doing

Data privacy and security is among Cypress’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. Since the discovery of the incident, Cypress moved quickly to investigate, respond, and confirm the security of our systems. Specifically, Cypress changed all user credentials, enhanced the security measures, and took steps and will continue to take steps to mitigate the risk of future harm.

In response to the incident, 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 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

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious or unauthorized activity. Additionally, security experts suggest that you contact your financial institution and all major credit bureaus to inform them of such a breach and then take whatever steps are recommended to protect your interests, including the possible placement of a fraud alert on your credit file. Please review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Your Information*, to learn more about how to protect against the possibility of information misuse.

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

We would like to reiterate that, at this time, there is no evidence that your information was misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of the services offered.

For More Information

If you have any questions or concerns not addressed in this letter, please call 1-833-954-1107 (toll free) Monday through Friday, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (excluding U.S. national holidays).

Cypress sincerely regrets any concern or inconvenience this matter may cause and remains dedicated to ensuring the privacy and security of all information in our control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zach Brock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zach Brock
Chief Executive Officer, Partner
Cypress Benefit Solutions

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 P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/fraud/center.html	TransUnion P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts	Equifax P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-525-6285 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/
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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 P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html	TransUnion P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze	Equifax P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 1-888-298-0045 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/
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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
