

September 13, 2024

VIA EMAIL (Idtheft@oag.state.md.us)

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

Re: The Law Offices of Todd S. Richardson P.L.L.C – Incident Notification

Dear Mr. Brown:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents the Law Offices of Todd S. Richardson (“Richardson Law Offices”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident at Richardson Law Offices that may affect the security of personal information of approximately one (1) Maryland resident. By providing this notice, Richardson Law Offices does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

On or about September 26, 2023 The Law Offices of Todd S. Richardson (“Richardson Law Offices”) experienced a cybersecurity incident impacting one (1) corporate email account. Upon learning of this issue, Richardson Law Offices immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After the completion of an extensive forensic investigation and thorough manual review, Richardson Law Offices discovered on August 21, 2024, that some of personal information of Maryland resident(s) may have been accessed and/or acquired in connection with this incident. The personal information contained with the impacted data included first and last name, Social Security number, driver’s license, medical record information, and legal information.

To date, Richardson Law Offices is not aware of any reports of identity fraud or financial fraud for any information as a direct result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Richardson Law Offices wanted to inform you (and the affected resident) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected resident against identity fraud. Richardson Law Offices is providing the affected resident with notification of this incident, commencing on or about September 13, 2024. The notice will be in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Richardson Law Offices is also offering the affected resident whose Social Security number was potentially impacted by the incident with complimentary credit monitoring services. Richardson Law Offices is advising the affected residents to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Richardson Law Offices is also advising the affected residents about the process for placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports.

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

If you have any additional questions, please contact me at (248) 593-2952 or cbattersby@mcdonaldhopkins.com.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colin Battersby', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Colin Battersby

Law Offices of Todd S. Richardson P.L.L.C.

Postal Endorsement Line

Dear [REDACTED]

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to the Law Offices of Todd S. Richardson, P.L.L.C. ("Richardson Law Offices"). We are writing with important information regarding a data security incident that may have 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?

On or around September 26, 2023, the Richardson Law Offices discovered suspicious activity within its e-mail environment. Immediately upon discovering the issue, we changed the password to the affected account, terminated all external access to the account, and continued to monitor the account for unauthorized access or other suspicious activity. Richardson Law Offices immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. Through this investigation, we determined that the incident involved unauthorized access to a single Richardson Law Offices email account. This access occurred approximately between the dates of August 20, 2023 to September 26, 2023.

We conducted an extensive investigation and review of the impacted mailbox to identify any individuals whose personal information may have been contained in the account, which concluded on August 21, 2024, and determined the identity and contact information of all potentially impacted individuals.

What Information Was Involved?

The impacted information may have contained your name, [REDACTED]

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we 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. We continue to evaluate and modify our practices and security controls to enhance the security and privacy of personal information we maintain.

What You Can Do.

We have no indication that your information has been misused for identity theft. Out of an abundance of caution, however, and to protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering a **complimentary** [REDACTED] month membership of identity theft protection services through Experian IdentityWorks.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or 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, [REDACTED] a.m. to [REDACTED] p.m. Eastern time.

Sincerely,

Todd S. Richardson
604 6th St.
Clarkston, WA 99403

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

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

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for [REDACTED] months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for [REDACTED] months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is immediately available to you, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary <[REDACTED]-month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you **enroll by** [REDACTED] (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: [REDACTED]
- Provide your **activation** [REDACTED]

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at [REDACTED] by [REDACTED]. Be prepared to provide engagement number [REDACTED] as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR [REDACTED]-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

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-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 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
<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

Fraud Victim Assistance Department
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016-2000
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>
(800) 680-7289

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.

3. Consider 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 30348-5788
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>
(888) 298-0045

Experian Security Freeze

P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
<http://experian.com/freeze>
(888) 397-3742

TransUnion Security Freeze

P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
<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 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.

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 this notice letter states that your financial account information and/or credit or debit card information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

* * * * *

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.