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October 11, 2024

VIA EMAIL (IDTHEFT@OAG.STATE.MD.US)

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

Re: Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General Brown:

We are writing on behalf of our client, The College of American Pathologists (“CAP”), to notify your office of a cybersecurity incident, involving 32 Maryland residents.

On August 18, 2024, CAP identified suspicious activity within its computer network that disrupted the operations of some of CAP’s IT systems. CAP immediately took steps to secure its systems, launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic experts, and notified law enforcement. CAP’s investigation determined that an unauthorized party may have obtained data from CAP’s systems on August 18, 2024. On September 5, 2024, CAP determined that files on the system contained some information related to CAP employees including the name, date of birth and Social Security number of 32 Maryland residents.

On October 11, 2024, CAP sent a notification letter via U.S. First-Class mail to the Maryland residents.¹ A copy of the notification is enclosed. CAP is offering notice recipients complimentary credit monitoring, fraud consultation and identity theft restoration services through Experian. CAP has also established a dedicated, toll-free call center to answer any questions individuals may have.

¹ This notice does not waive CAP’s objection that Maryland lacks personal jurisdiction over it regarding any claims related to this incident.

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To help prevent something like this from happening again, CAP has implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect and monitor its systems.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric A. Packel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Packel" clearly distinguishable.

Eric A. Packel
Partner

Enclosure



COLLEGE of AMERICAN
PATHOLOGISTS

Return Mail Processing
PO Box 999
Suwanee, GA 30024

13 1 2431 *****SNGLP

SAMPLE A. SAMPLE - L01

APT ABC

123 ANY ST

ANYTOWN, US 12345-6789



October 11, 2024

NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear Sample A. Sample,

The College of American Pathologists is committed to protecting the privacy and security of the information in our care. We are writing to notify you about an incident that may have involved some of your information. This letter explains the incident, the measures we have taken, and additional measures you can take.

What Happened? On August 18, 2024, we identified suspicious activity within our computer network that disrupted the operations of some of our IT systems. We immediately took steps to secure our systems, launched an investigation with the assistance of third-party forensic experts, and notified law enforcement. Our investigation determined that an unauthorized party may have obtained data from our systems on August 18, 2024. We then initiated a review and analysis of those files, and on September 5, 2024, determined that some information related to our employees was contained within the files.

What Information Was Involved? These files contained the following information, which was used for human resources purposes: your name, date of birth, and Social Security number.

What We Are Doing. We are notifying you of this incident to assure you that we take this matter very seriously. To help prevent something like this from happening again, we have implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect and monitor our systems.

What You Can Do. We are offering you a two-year complimentary membership to Experian's® IdentityWorksSM. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection support focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. Experian IdentityWorks is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft protection, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, please see the additional information provided with this letter.

For more Information. We remain committed to protecting the confidentiality and security of your information. and apologize for the concern this may cause. If you have questions, please call us at 1-833-918-5934, available Monday through Friday from 8 am – 8 pm Central Time (excluding major U.S. holidays).

Sincerely,

Winifred L. Williams, PhD

Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff
College of American Pathologists

Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: **January 31, 2025** (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll: **www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit**
3. PROVIDE the **Activation Code: ABCDEFGHI**

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at 1-833-918-5934 by January 31, 2025. Be prepared to provide engagement number B132639 as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B 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.
- **Up to \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent at 1-833-918-5934. 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 (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 this Identity Restoration support is available to you for 24 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. You will also find self-help tips and information about identity protection at this site.

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-888-378-4329
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

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 state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

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

Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

Credit or Security Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That is because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they cannot see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com
- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.com

You will need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with 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.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

The business address for The College of American Pathologists is 325 Waukegan Road, Northfield, IL 60093 and can be reached by telephone at 1-800-323-4040.

Additional information for residents of the following states:

Connecticut: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Connecticut Attorney General's Office*, 165 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag

District of Columbia: You may contact and obtain information from your attorney general at: Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 441 4th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, 1-202-727-3400, www.oag.dc.gov

Massachusetts: Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General*, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html

Maryland: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Maryland Attorney General's Office*, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023 / 1-410-576-6300, www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov

New York: You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: *New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection*, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>; and *New York State Office of the Attorney General*, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>

North Carolina: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6000 / 1-877-566-7226, www.ncdoj.gov

Rhode Island: This incident involves 1 individual in Rhode Island. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Rhode Island*

Attorney General's Office, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, www.riag.ri.gov

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Your major rights under the FCRA are summarized below. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to www.consumerfinance.gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.
- You have the right to know what is in your file.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- 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 reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You have a right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have additional rights.