



MULLEN
COUGHLIN^{LLC}
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November 26, 2024

VIA E-MAIL

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

Re: Notice of Data Event

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of Connecticut GI, PLLC and Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield, P.C. (collectively “the Clinics”) located at 425 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824, and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of certain personal information relating to approximately thirteen (13) Maryland residents. By providing this notice, the Clinics does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law, the applicability of the Maryland data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

On June 19, 2024, the Clinics learned through an investigation that an unknown actor gained access to certain servers within its network between June 5 to June 7, 2024, and copied a limited amount of data. Upon identifying the at-risk data, the Clinics initiated a diligent review of the data to determine the scope of impacted patients. Following this determination, The Clinics are notifying all individuals whose information may have been included in the impacted files associated with records from Connecticut GI, PLLC or Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield, P.C. The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name and financial account information.

Notice to Maryland Residents

On or about November 26, 2024, the Clinics provided written notice of this incident to thirteen (13) Maryland residents. Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as ***Exhibit A***.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, the Clinics moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of the Clinics systems, and identify potentially affected individuals. The Clinics also are working to implement additional technical safeguards. The Clinics are providing access to credit monitoring services for twenty-four (24) months, through IDX, a ZeroFox Company, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, the Clinics are providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. The Clinics are providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, 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 encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

The Clinics are providing written notice of this incident to relevant state and federal regulators, as necessary, and to the three major credit reporting agencies, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. The Clinics are also notifying the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, attached here as ***Exhibit B***.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-6785.

Very truly yours,

Chris Ballod of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

CAB/kgf
Enclosure

EXHIBIT A



P.O. Box 989728
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>>
<<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>
<<Country>>

Enrollment Code: <<ENROLLMENT>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

<https://response.idx.us/ConnecticutGI>

November 26, 2024

NOTICE OF <<SECURITY INCIDENT/DATA BREACH>>

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

As a valued patient of Connecticut GI, PLLC or Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield, P.C. (collectively “the Clinics”), we write to notify you about a recent matter that may affect certain information related to you. This letter provides you with details about this matter, our response, and the resources available to assist you with safeguarding your information, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened? On June 19, 2024, the Clinics learned through an investigation that an unknown actor gained access to certain servers within our network between June 5, 2024 to June 7, 2024, and copied a limited amount of data. Upon identifying the at-risk data, we initiated a diligent review of the data to determine the scope of impacted patients. Following this determination, we are notifying all individuals whose information may have been included in the impacted files associated with records from Connecticut GI, PLLC or Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield, P.C. Although we have no indication of any misuse of your personal information as a result of this event, out of an abundance of caution, we are providing notice to individuals who may have been impacted.

What Information Was Involved? The investigation determined that the information potentially impacted includes your name, and <<Variable Text 2: Data Element>>. We have no evidence that any of your information was used for identity theft or fraud.

What We Are Doing. We take this incident and the obligation to safeguard the information in our care very seriously. After discovering the incident, we promptly took steps to confirm our system security, and engaged with a third-party forensic specialist to assist in conducting a comprehensive investigation. As an added precaution, we are offering twenty-four (24) months of credit monitoring and identity restoration services through IDX, A ZeroFox Company. If you wish to activate these complimentary services, you may follow the instructions included in the attached *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Personal Information*. If you elect to activate these services, you must enroll in these services directly as we are unable to act on your behalf to do so.

What You Can 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 to detect errors over the next 12 to 24 months.

For More Information. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to call us at 1-866-588-9619. We are available Monday through Friday 9:00am to 9:00pm Eastern Time, excluding major US holidays. You may also write to the Clinics at 425 Post Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824.

Sincerely,

Connecticut GI, PLLC and Gastroenterology Associates of Fairfield, P.C.



STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Enroll in Monitoring Services

1. Website and Enrollment. Scan the QR image or go to <https://response.idx.us/ConnecticutGI> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.

2. Activate the credit monitoring provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.

3. Telephone. Contact IDX at 1-866-588-9619 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

4. Review your credit reports. We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify them immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of our ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop and reverse the damage quickly.

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order a free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. Consumers may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of their credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If consumers are the victim of identity theft, they are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should consumers wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers 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 the consumer’s express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in a consumer’s name without consent. However, consumers should be aware that using a credit freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in their credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application they make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, consumers cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on their credit report. To request a credit freeze, individuals may need to provide some or all of the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to five years;

5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, etc.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if they are a victim of identity theft.

Should consumers wish to place a credit freeze or fraud alert, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
1-888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Additional Information

Consumers may further educate themselves regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps they can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and 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. Consumers can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. Consumers have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, consumers will likely need to provide some proof that they have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement and the relevant state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; (202) 442-9828; and oag.dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-576-6300 or 1-888-743-0023; and <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>.

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, 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 reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; www.riag.ri.gov; and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, individuals have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this event. There are approximately 13 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.