

**Heather Shumaker**  
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March 10, 2025

**VIA EMAIL ([Idtheft@oag.state.md.us](mailto:Idtheft@oag.state.md.us))**

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

**Re: Asbury Theological Seminary – Incident Notification**

To Whom It May Concern:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents Asbury Theological Seminary. I am writing to provide notification of an incident at Asbury Theological Seminary that may affect the security of personal information of one hundred and eight (108) Maryland residents. Asbury Theological Seminary will supplement this notification with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, Asbury Theological Seminary does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of Maryland law or personal jurisdiction.

On or about June 6, 2024, Asbury Theological Seminary detected unauthorized access to its network environment. Upon learning of this issue, Asbury Theological Seminary immediately secured the environment and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of its investigation, Asbury Theological Seminary has worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, Asbury Theological Seminary discovered on February 19, 2025, that an unauthorized actor may have accessed and/or acquired certain files containing personal information between June 1, 2024, and June 6, 2024. The personal information contained within the impacted data included first and last name, Social Security Number, bank account number and routing number. The types of personal information involved varied by individual.

Asbury Theological Seminary has no evidence of financial fraud or identity theft as a result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Asbury Theological Seminary wanted to inform you (and the affected residents) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected residents against identity fraud. Asbury Theological Seminary is providing the affected residents with notification of this incident, commencing on or about March 10, 2025. The notice will be in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Asbury Theological Seminary is also offering the affected residents with complimentary credit monitoring services if their Social Security Numbers were potentially impacted. Asbury Theological Seminary is advising the affected residents to always remain

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vigilant in reviewing financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Asbury Theological Seminary 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. Additionally, the affected residents are being provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission and the Maryland Attorney General Consumer Protection Division.

At Asbury Theological Seminary, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. Asbury Theological Seminary is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. Asbury Theological Seminary continually evaluates and modifies its practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of personal information.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 402-4066 or [hshumaker@mcdonaldhopkins.com](mailto:hshumaker@mcdonaldhopkins.com).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Shumaker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heather Shumaker

Encl.



Secure Processing Center  
25 Route 111, P.O. Box 1048  
Smithtown, NY 11787

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to Asbury Theological Seminary. We are writing with important information regarding a data security incident that may have involved your personal information. As such, we want to provide information about the incident, explain the services we are making available to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

On or about June 6, 2024, Asbury Theological Seminary detected unauthorized access to our network environment.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we immediately secured the environment and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, we discovered on February 19, 2025, that an unauthorized actor may have accessed and/or acquired certain files containing personal information between June 1, 2024, and June 6, 2024.

What Information Was Involved?

The potentially impacted information includes your [REDACTED]

What You Can Do.

**We have no evidence that any of your information has been used for identity theft or financial fraud as a result of this incident.** Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we are offering a complimentary [REDACTED]-month membership of Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention and IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary [REDACTED]-month membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and Security Freeze on your credit files, and 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. Asbury Theological Seminary is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. Asbury Theological Seminary continually evaluates and modifies its practices and internal controls 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, 9:00 am to 9:00 pm Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

Asbury Theological Seminary  
204 N Lexington Ave  
Wilmore, KY 40390

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

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

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorks<sup>SM</sup> 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](http://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: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
- Provide your **activation code:** [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 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

**3. 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  
<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 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.

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.

**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](http://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](http://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.

**Iowa Residents:** You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General's Office to report suspected incidents of identity Theft: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Consumer Protection Division, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, [www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov), Telephone: 515-281-5164.

**Maryland Residents:** You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, [www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov), Telephone: 888-743-0023.

**New York Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; [ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft](http://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft); Telephone: 800-771-7755.

**North Carolina Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov), Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000.

**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](http://www.doj.state.or.us), Telephone: 877-877-9392.

**Washington D.C. Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 400 6th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, [oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection](http://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection), Telephone: 202-442-9828.

**Rhode Island Residents:** You have the right to obtain a police report if one was filed, or alternatively, you can file a police report. Further, you can obtain information from the Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General about steps you can take to help prevent identity theft. You can contact the Rhode Island Attorney General at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, (401) 274-4400, [www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov). As noted above, you have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report at no charge, but note that consumer reporting agencies may charge fees for other services. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. These agencies can be contacted using the contact information provided above. In order to request a security freeze, you may need to provide the following information: your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.); Social Security number; date of birth; complete address; prior addresses; proof(s) of identification (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, birth certificate, etc.); and if you are a victim of identity theft, a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft. When you place a security freeze on your credit report, within five (5) business days you will be provided with a personal identification number or password to use if you choose to remove the freeze on your credit report or to temporarily authorize the release of your credit report for a specific period of time after the freeze is in place. To provide that authorization, you must contact the consumer reporting agency and provide all of the following: (1) the unique personal identification number or password provided by the consumer reporting agency; (2) proper identification to verify your identity; and (3) the proper information regarding the period of time for which the report shall be available to users of the credit report. There were [REDACTED] Rhode Island residents impacted.

**New Mexico Residents:** You have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA). These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. For more information about the FCRA, please visit [www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf) or [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov).

*In Addition, New Mexico Consumers Have the Right to  
Obtain a Security Freeze or Submit a Declaration of Removal*

As noted above, you may obtain a security freeze on your credit report to protect your privacy and ensure that credit is not granted in your name without your knowledge. You may submit a declaration of removal to remove information placed in your credit report as a result of being a victim of identity theft. You have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report or submit a declaration of removal pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting and Identity Security Act.

The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. When you place a security freeze on your credit report, you will be provided with a personal identification number, password, or similar device to use if you choose to remove the freeze on your credit report or to temporarily authorize the release of your credit report to a specific party or parties or for a specific period of time after the freeze is in place. To remove the freeze or to provide authorization for the temporary release of your credit report, you must contact the consumer reporting agency and provide all of the following:

1. The unique personal identification number, password, or similar device provided by the consumer reporting agency;
2. Proper identification to verify your identity; and
3. Information regarding the third party or parties who are to receive the credit report or the period of time for which the credit report may be released to users of the credit report.

A consumer reporting agency that receives a request from a consumer to lift temporarily a freeze on a credit report shall comply with the request no later than three business days after receiving the request. As of September 1, 2008, a consumer reporting agency shall comply with the request within fifteen minutes of receiving the request by a secure electronic method or by telephone.

A security freeze does not apply in all circumstances, such as where you have an existing account relationship and a copy of your credit report is requested by your existing creditor or its agents for certain types of account review, collection, fraud control, or similar activities; for use in setting or adjusting an insurance rate or claim or insurance underwriting; for certain governmental purposes; and for purposes of prescreening as defined in the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

If you are actively seeking a new credit, loan, utility, telephone, or insurance account, you should understand that the procedures involved in lifting a security freeze may slow your own applications for credit. You should plan ahead and lift a freeze, either completely if you are shopping around or specifically for a certain creditor, with enough advance notice before you apply for new credit for the lifting to take effect. You should contact a consumer reporting agency and request it to lift the freeze at least three business days before applying. As of September 1, 2008, if you contact a consumer reporting agency by a secure electronic method or by telephone, the consumer reporting agency should lift the freeze within fifteen minutes. You have a right to bring a civil action against a consumer reporting agency that violates your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting and Identity Security Act.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a request to each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. You may contact these agencies using the contact information provided above.