

Appendix

Sears Law Office recently completed an investigation into an incident involving unauthorized access to an employee's email account. Upon learning of the unauthorized access, Sears Law Office immediately took steps to secure the email account, a cyber security firm was engaged, and a thorough investigation was conducted. The investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the email account on December 28, 2021. The investigation could not determine which emails or attachments were accessed by the unauthorized person. Therefore, Sears Law Office conducted a thorough review of the emails and attachments that were contained in the account involved and determined on May 9, 2022 that an email or attachment contained the personal information of eight Maine residents, including the individuals' names, driver's license or state identification numbers, financial account numbers and/or Social Security numbers.

Beginning June 10, 2022, Sears Law Office began mailing notification letters to the Maine residents via U.S. First-Class mail in accordance with Me. Rev. Stat. Tit. 10, §1348.¹ A sample copy of the notification letter is enclosed. Sears Law Office is offering the Maine residents involved one year of complimentary credit monitoring, and identity protection services through Kroll. Sears Law Office has also established a dedicated, toll-free call center for individuals to call with questions regarding the incident.

To help prevent something like this from happening again, Sears Law Office has implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect our email system.

¹ This report does not waive Sears Law Office's objection that Maine lacks regulatory authority over it related to any claims that may arise from this incident.

SEARS LAW OFFICE

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

Dear <<First_Name>> <<Last_Name>>,

Sears Law Office understands the importance of protecting the information we maintain. I am writing to notify you of an incident that involves some of your information. This letter explains the incident, measures we have taken and some steps you can take in response.

What Happened?

We recently completed an investigation into an incident involving unauthorized access to an employee's email account. Upon learning of the unauthorized access, we immediately took steps to secure the email account, a cyber security firm was engaged, and a thorough investigation was conducted. The investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the email account on December 28, 2021.

What Information Was Involved?

The investigation could not determine which emails or attachments were accessed by the unauthorized person. We, therefore, conducted a thorough review of the emails and attachments that were contained in the account involved and determined on May 9, 2022 that an email or attachment contained your <<b2b_text_1 (data elements)>>.

What We Are Doing.

We have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for one year. The identity monitoring services we are making available to you include credit monitoring, \$1 Million Identity Fraud Loss Reimbursement, fraud consultation and identity theft restoration. To help prevent something like this from happening again, we have implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to further protect our email system.

What You Can Do.

For more information on identity theft prevention and Kroll Identity Monitoring, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, please visit the below website and see the additional information provided with this letter.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<b2b_text_6(ActivationDeadline)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<MembershipNumber (S_N)>>

For more information about Kroll and your Identity Monitoring services, you can visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

Additional information describing your services is included with this letter.

We remind you to remain vigilant to the possibility of fraud by reviewing your financial statements for any unauthorized activity. You should immediately report any unauthorized activity to your financial institution.

For More Information.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused by this incident. If you have any questions, please call [1-XXX-XXX-XXXX](tel:1-XXX-XXX-XXXX), Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Eastern Time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

James M. Sears

James M. Sears



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

Single Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you will have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

\$1 Million Identity Fraud Loss Reimbursement

Reimburses you for out-of-pocket expenses totaling up to \$1 million in covered legal costs and expenses for any one stolen identity event. All coverage is subject to the conditions and exclusions in the policy.

Fraud Consultation

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

Identity Theft Restoration

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

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, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, 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), 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's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't 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:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

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 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.

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