

September 8, 2023

#### **VIA EMAIL**

Attorney General John Formella Consumer Protection Bureau Office of the Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301 attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov

Re: Notification of Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Formella:

Constangy Brooks Smith & Prophete LLP represents Brady Martz & Associates ("Brady Martz"), located in North Dakota, with respect to a recent data security incident described in greater detail below. The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the incident.

## 1. Nature of the Security Incident

On November 19, 2022, Brady Martz became aware of unusual activity in its digital environment. Upon discovering this activity, it immediately took steps to secure the environment and arranged independent cybersecurity experts to investigate the matter and assess the extent, if any, of unauthorized access. As a result of this investigation, Brady Martz learned that an unauthorized actor may have accessed a limited portion of data stored within its network. On August 31, 2023, Brady Martz determined that personal information may have been affected by this incident. The affected information varies by individual, but may include an individual's

# 2. Number of New Hampshire Residents Affected

On September 8, 2023, Brady Martz notified nineteen (19) New Hampshire residents of this incident via first class U.S. mail. A sample copy of the notification letter sent to impacted individuals is included with this correspondence.

#### 3. Steps Taken Relating to the Incident

To help prevent something like this from happening again, Brady Martz has implemented measures to further enhance the security of its network. It is also offering complimentary identity protection services to individuals whose Social Security numbers were affected by the incident. Brady Martz also reported the incident to law enforcement.

# 4. Contact Information

Brady Martz remains dedicated to protecting the information in its possession. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at by phone or by email at

Regards.

Lauren Godfrey Partner

Enc.: Sample Consumer Notification Letter



Secure Processing Center P.O. Box 3826 Suwanee, GA 30024

<<Name 1>>
<<Name 2>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<City>>><State>><<Zip>>>

To Enroll, Please Visit:

<<Variable Data 3>>

Enrollment Code: << Activation Code>>

<<Date>>

**Subject: Notice of Data << Variable Data 1>>** 

Dear << Name 1>>:

We are writing to inform you about a incident that may have affected your information held in the digital systems of Brady Martz & Associates ("Brady Martz"), headquarted in North Dakota. This letter is to notify you of the incident, offer you complimentary identity protection services, and inform you about steps you can take to help protect your personal information.

What Happened: On November 19, 2022, Brady Martz was alerted to unusual activity in our digital environment. Upon discovering this activity, we immediately took steps to secure the environment and arranged independent cybersecurity experts to investigate the matter and assess the extent, if any, of unauthorized access. As a result of this investigation, Brady Martz learned that an unauthorized actor may have accessed a limited portion of data stored within our network. After a thorough review of the accessed data, on August 31, 2023, Brady Martz determined that your personal information may have been affected by the incident. We want to assure you that we have no evidence that your personal information has been misused. However, out of an abundance of caution, we are notifying you about the incident, providing you with resources to help you protect your personal information, and offering you complimentary identity protection services.

**What Information Was Involved:** The data that could have potentially been accessed by the unauthorized party included <<Breached Elements>>.

What We Are Doing: To help prevent something like this from happening again, we have implemented additional advanced technical security measures and monitoring. We are also providing you with information about steps that you can take to help protect your personal information. As a further precaution, we are offering you <<CM Duration>> months of complimentary identity monitoring services through Equifax. This service helps detect possible misuse of your information and provides you with identity protection support.

What You Can Do: You can follow the recommendations included with this letter to help protect your information. In addition, you can also enroll in Equifax's complimentary credit and identity monitoring services by going to the link noted above. When prompted, please provide the unique code noted above to enroll in the services. The deadline to enroll is <<Enrollment Deadline>>. For more information on how you can protect your personal information, please review the resources provided on the following pages.

**For More Information:** If you have any questions regarding the incident or would like assistance with enrolling in the services offered, please do not hesitate to call Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Central, (excluding holidays).

The security of the information in our possession is a top priority for Brady Martz. Your trust in us is of utmost importance, and we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of data security. We deeply regret any inconvenience this may cause and want to assure you that we have taken steps to prevent such incidents from happening in the future. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Brady Martz & Associates PC 24 West Central Avenue Minot, ND 58702

## **Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Personal Information**

Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity: As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports closely. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained. You also should promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Copy of Credit Report: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com/">http://www.annualcreditreport.com/</a>, calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by completing an Annual Credit Report Request Form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
P.O. Box 105851	P.O. Box 9532	P.O. Box 1000
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016
1-800-525-6285	1-888-397-3742	1-800-916-8800
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com	www.transunion.com

**Fraud Alert:** You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least one year. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com">http://www.annualcreditreport.com</a>.

**Security Freeze:** You have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file for up to one year at no cost. This will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit. You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement.

**Additional Free Resources:** You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC, or from your respective state Attorney General about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the Attorney General in your state.

**Maryland Attorney General** 

**New York Attorney General** 

**Federal Trade Commission** 

600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW	200 St. Paul Place	Bureau of Internet and Technology
Washington, DC 20580	Baltimore, MD 21202	Resources
consumer.ftc.gov, and	oag.state.md.us	28 Liberty Street
www.ftc.gov/idtheft	1-888-743-0023	New York, NY 10005
1-877-438-4338		1-212-416-8433
North Carolina Attorney General	Rhode Island Attorney General	Washington D.C. Attorney General
North Carolina Attorney General 9001 Mail Service Center	<b>Rhode Island Attorney General</b> 150 South Main Street	Washington D.C. Attorney General 441 4th Street, NW
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9001 Mail Service Center	150 South Main Street	441 4th Street, NW
9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699	150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903	441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; as well as other rights. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit <a href="https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pd">https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pd</a>