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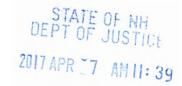
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Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General 33 CAPITOL ST

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FILE NO: 83295.000002

April 4, 2017

## Via Certified Mail

Office of the New Hampshire Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301

To Whom It May Concern:

In accordance with N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 359-C:20, I am writing on behalf of The Children's Place, Inc. ("TCP") to notify you regarding the nature and circumstances of a recent data security incident.

TCP recently learned that an unauthorized party may have accessed certain employees' personal information on www.ereports.ceridian.com, a website hosted by Ceridian, TCP's third-party payroll tax vendor. The personal information may have included data contained on W-2 tax forms, such as names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and wage and tax information. This information may have been used in the filing of false tax returns.

Promptly after learning of this issue, TCP had Ceridian disable access to its website. In addition, TCP retained a leading data security forensics firm to help the company understand the nature and scope of the matter. Based on the forensics firm's investigation, TCP has no indication that any of its systems have been compromised. TCP is working with law enforcement to assist in their investigation.

TCP has identified one New Hampshire resident affected by this issue. Attached for your reference is a copy of the notice being sent to the affected individual on April 4, 2017. TCP has arranged to offer free identity protection and credit monitoring services to the affected individual for 24 months.

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

Very truly yours,

Lisa J. Sotto

Enclosure

PLACE

April 4, 2017

[Name] [Address] [City], [State] [ZIP] DEPT OF JUSTICE
2017 APR 7 AM 11: 39

Dear [Name],

We are writing to notify you of an incident that may involve certain of your personal information. We recently learned that an unauthorized party may have accessed certain employees' personal information on www.ereports.ceridian.com, a website hosted by Ceridian, our third-party payroll tax vendor. The personal information may have included data contained on W-2 tax forms, such as names, addresses, Social Security numbers, and wage and tax information. This information may have been used in the filing of false tax returns.

Promptly after learning of this issue, we had Ceridian disable access to their website. In addition, we retained a leading data security forensics firm to help us understand the nature and scope of the matter. Based on the forensics firm's investigation, we have no indication that any of our systems have been compromised. We are working with law enforcement to assist in their investigation.

We take the safeguarding of your personal information very seriously, and we are alerting you so you can take steps to help protect yourself. We recommend that you call the IRS at 1-800-908-4490 and report that your employer advised you that there may have been fraudulent activity on a website that maintains your W-2 form. You may be eligible to obtain an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number from the IRS. You can also visit the IRS website at www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft for more information.

In addition, you are entitled under U.S. law to one free credit report annually from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and monitoring your free credit reports.

Finally, we have arranged to offer free identity protection and credit monitoring services to potentially affected employees for 24 months. The attached Reference Guide provides information on registration for identity protection services and recommendations by the IRS and U.S. Federal Trade Commission on the protection of personal information.

We hope this information is useful to you. If you have any questions regarding this incident, please call 201-453-7591 or 1-800-527-5355 ext 37591, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST or email TCPW2questions@childrensplace.com.

We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Leah Swan

SVP, Human Resources

## Reference Guide



We encourage affected individuals to take the following steps:

<u>Contact the IRS.</u> If you suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, please consider taking the following steps:

- Complete IRS Form 14039, Identity Theft Affidavit, available at https://www.irs.gov/uac/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft. Once you have fully completed the form, print it and submit it to the IRS according to the instructions on the form.
- Visit https://www.irs.gov/individuals/how-irs-id-theft-victim-assistance-works or https://www.irs.gov/individuals/data-breach-information-for-taxpayers for more information about tax-related identify theft and steps you can take to protect yourself.
- Contact the IRS at 1-800-908-4490 for additional information.

<u>Order Your Free Credit Report.</u> To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com, call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at www.consumer.ftc.gov and mail it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. The three consumer reporting agencies provide free annual credit reports only through the website, toll-free number or request form.

When you receive your credit report, review it carefully. Look for accounts you did not open. Look in the "inquiries" section for names of creditors from whom you haven't requested credit. Some companies bill under names other than their store or commercial names. The consumer reporting agency will be able to tell you when that is the case. Look in the "personal information" section for any inaccuracies in your information (such as home address and Social Security number). If you see anything you do not understand, call the consumer reporting agency at the telephone number on the report. Errors in this information may be a warning sign of possible identity theft. You should notify the consumer reporting agencies of any inaccuracies in your report, whether due to error or fraud, as soon as possible so the information can be investigated and, if found to be in error, corrected. If there are accounts or charges you did not authorize, immediately notify the appropriate consumer reporting agency by telephone and in writing. Consumer reporting agency staff will review your report with you. If the information can't be explained, then you will need to call the creditors involved. Information that can't be explained also should be reported to your local police or sheriff's office because it may signal criminal activity.

Register for Identity Protection Services. As an added precaution, we have arranged with AllClear ID to help you protect your identity and your credit information for 24 months at no cost to you. The following identity protection services start on the date of this notice and you can use them at any time during the next 24 months.

<u>AllClear Identity Repair:</u> This service is automatically available to you with no enrollment required. If a problem arises, call 1-877-676-0379 and a dedicated investigator will help in your attempt to recover financial losses, restore your credit and make sure your identity is returned to its proper condition.

AllClear Credit Monitoring: This service offers additional layers of protection including credit monitoring and a \$1 million identity theft insurance policy. To use this service, you will need to provide certain information to AllClear ID. You may sign up online at enroll.allclearid.com or by phone by calling 1-877-676-0379 using the following redemption code: [code].

Please note: Additional steps may be required by you in order to activate your phone alerts and monitoring options.

Consider Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File. To protect yourself from possible identity theft, consider placing a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert helps protect you against the possibility of an identity thief opening new credit accounts in your name. When a merchant checks the credit history of someone applying for credit, the merchant gets a notice that the applicant may be the victim of identity theft. The alert notifies the merchant to take steps to verify the identity of the applicant. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by calling any one of the toll-free numbers provided below. You will reach an automated telephone system that allows you to flag your file with a fraud alert at all three consumer reporting agencies. For more information on fraud alerts, you also may contact the FTC as described above.

Equifax	Equifax Credit Information Services,	1-800-525-6285	www.equifax.com
	Inc.		
	P.O. Box 740241		
	Atlanta, GA 30374		
Experian	Experian Inc.	1-888-397-3742	www.experian.com
	P.O. Box 9554		
	Allen, TX 75013		
TransUnion	TransUnion LLC	1-800-680-7289	www.transunion.com
	P.O. Box 2000		
	Chester, PA 19022-2000		

Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File. You may wish to place a "security freeze" (also known as a "credit freeze") on your credit file. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit file at the consumer reporting agencies without your consent. There may be fees for placing, lifting, and/or removing a security freeze, which generally range from \$5-\$20 per action. Unlike a fraud alert, you must place a security freeze on your credit file at each consumer reporting agency individually. For more information on security freezes, you may contact the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies or the FTC as described above. As the instructions for establishing a security freeze differ from state to state, please contact the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies to find out more information.

The consumer reporting agencies may require proper identification prior to honoring your request. For example, you may be asked to provide:

- Your full name with middle initial and generation (such as Jr., Sr., II, III)
- Your Social Security number
- Your date of birth
- Addresses where you have lived over the past five years
- A legible copy of a government-issued identification card (such as a state driver's license or military ID card)
- Proof of your current residential address (such as a current utility bill or account statement)

Report Incidents. If you detect any unauthorized transactions in a financial account, promptly notify your payment card company or financial institution. If you detect any incident of identity theft or fraud,

promptly report the incident to law enforcement, the FTC and your state Attorney General. If you believe your identity has been stolen, the FTC recommends that you take these steps:

- Place an initial fraud alert.
- Order your credit reports.
- Create an FTC Identity Theft Affidavit by submitting a report about the theft at http://www.ftc.gov/complaint or by calling the FTC.
- File a police report about the identity theft and get a copy of the police report or the report number. Bring your FTC Identity Theft Affidavit with you when you file the police report.
- Your Identity Theft Report is your FTC Identity Theft Affidavit plus your police report. You may be
  able to use your Identity Theft Report to remove fraudulent information from your credit report,
  prevent companies from refurnishing fraudulent information to a consumer reporting agency, stop
  a company from collecting a debt that resulted from identity theft, place an extended seven-year
  fraud alert with consumer reporting agencies, and obtain information from companies about
  accounts the identity thief opened or misused.

You can contact the FTC to learn more about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft and how to repair identity theft:

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

<u>For Maryland Residents.</u> You can obtain information from the Maryland Office of the Attorney General about steps you can take to avoid identity theft. You may contact the Maryland Attorney General at:

Maryland Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 (888) 743-0023 (toll-free in Maryland) (410) 576-6300 www.oag.state.md.us

<u>For North Carolina Residents.</u> You can obtain information from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office about preventing identity theft. You can contact the North Carolina Attorney General at:

North Carolina Attorney General's Office 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001 (877) 566-7226 (toll-free in North Carolina) (919) 716-6400 www.ncdoj.gov