



August 2, 2018

Anjali C. Das 312.821.6164 (direct) Anjali.Das@wilsonelser.com

Attorney General Joseph A. Foster Office of the Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03302

Re:

Data Security Incident

Dear Attorney General Foster:

We represent J.E. Sandifer Financial Consultants, Inc. ("Sandifer"), located in Mobile, Alabama, with respect to a potential data security incident described in more detail below. Sandifer takes the security and privacy of the information in its control very seriously, and has taken steps to prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future.

# 1. Nature of the security incident.

On June 28, 2018, Sandifer discovered evidence of a compromise to an employee's email account. Sandifer immediately conducted an investigation alongside its IT vendor to determine how this incident occurred. Sandifer also retained computer forensics experts from Austin, Texas to identify what information may have been accessible to any unauthorized users, and identified that some of its clients' personal information may have existed within the mailbox at the time of compromise. This information may have included clients' name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and financial account information related to investment accounts currently or previously managed by Sandifer.

## 2. Number of New Hampshire residents affected.

A single resident of New Hampshire was potentially affected by this security incident. A notification letter to this individual was mailed on August 2, 2018, by first class mail. A sample copy of the notification letter is included with this letter.

## 3. Steps taken.

Sandifer has taken steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future, and to protect the privacy and security of potentially impacted individuals' information. This includes changing all employee email credentials, notifying the custodian which holds Sandifer's clients' assets of the incident. To further protect

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clients' assets, Sandifer will not accept a trade order or request for funds by email without first confirming verbally with its client. All potentially affected individuals have been provided with 12 months of complimentary identity protection services which include, credit monitoring and identity theft resolution services.

# 4. Contact information.

Sandifer remains dedicated to protecting the sensitive information in its control. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at Anjali.Das@wilsonelser.com or (312) 821-6164.

Very truly yours,

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP

Anjali C. Das

Enclosure

An Independent Firm

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

<<MemberFirstName>> <<MemberMiddleName>> <<MemberLastName>> <<Suffix>> <<Address1>> <<Address2>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<ZipCode>>

Dear << MemberFirstName>> << MemberLastName>>.

We are writing to inform you of an incident at Sandifer & Associates that may have resulted in the possible disclosure of some of your personal information. However, we have no evidence that your information has been misused. We take the security of your personal information very seriously, and sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this incident may cause. This letter contains information about what happened, steps we have taken and resources we are making available to you to protect your identity.

On June 28, 2018, we discovered evidence of a compromise to an employee's email account. We immediately conducted an investigation alongside our IT vendor to determine how this incident occurred. We also retained computer forensics experts from Austin, Texas to identify what information may have been accessible to any unauthorized users, and identified that some of your personal information may have existed within the mailbox at the time of compromise. Your personal information may have included your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and financial account information related to investment accounts currently or previously managed by our company. We are providing you with notice of this incident and the following services out of an abundance of caution.

Please note that we are aware of at least one customer who received a suspicious text message requesting Raymond James account information. While we are unaware of evidence correlating this incident to that which you are being notified of in this letter, we want to remind all of our clients that Sandifer & Associates will never request account information from you via text message. We further encourage you to verify any request for information by calling our office before providing any information or a response.

To help relieve concerns and restore confidence following this incident, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for one year. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Web Watcher, Public Persona, Quick Cash Scan, \$1 Million Identity Fraud Loss Reimbursement, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <<IDMonitoringURL>> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<Date>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: << Member ID>>

To receive credit services by mail instead of online, please call 1-???-????. Additional information describing your services is included with this letter.

We take the security of your personal information very seriously, and want to assure you that we are taking steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future. This includes changing all employee email credentials to prevent any unauthorized individuals from accessing employee email accounts in the future. We have also notified Raymond James, the custodian of your assets, of this incident so that its cyber security team can be on alert to identify any suspicious activity. We want to assure you that Raymond James' policies require my signature and approval before executing any disbursements or checks to third parties. To further protect your assets, it is our office policy not to accept trade orders or requests for funds by email without confirming verbally with you, our client.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience that this matter may cause you, and remain dedicated to protecting your information. Please see the addendum for additional steps you can take to protect your personal information. If you have any questions regarding your free credit monitoring service, please call 1-???-???\_???, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm Central Time. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

James E. Sandifer

Owner

Sandifer & Associates

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## Additional Important Information

### For residents of Hawaii, Michigan, Missouri, Virginia, Vermont, and North Carolina:

It is recommended by state law that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity.

### For residents of Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, and West Virginia:

It is required by state laws to inform you that you may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the nationwide three credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

### For residents of lowa:

State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

### For residents of Oregon:

State laws advise you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

### For residents of Maryland, Rhode Island, Illinois, and North Carolina:

You can obtain information from the Maryland and North Carolina Offices of the Attorneys General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft.

Maryland Office of the	F
Attorney General	1
Consumer Protection Division	
200 St. Paul Place	1
Baltimore, MD 21202	F
1-888-743-0023	1
www.oag.state.md.us	٧

## Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection 150 South Main Street Providence RI 02903 1-401-274-4400 www.riag.ri.gov

## North Carolina Office of the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001 1-877-566-7226 www.ncdoi.com

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

#### For residents of Massachusetts:

It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

### For residents of all states:

Fraud Alerts: You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. The contact information for all three credit bureaus is below:

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, or regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. The consumer reporting agency may charge a small fee to place, life, or remove a freeze, but is free if you are a victim of identity theft or the spouse of a victim of identity theft, and you have submitted a valid police report relating to the identity theft incident to the consumer reporting agency. You may obtain a security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 www.freeze.equifax.com 800-525-6285 Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com/freeze 888-397-3742 TransUnion (FVAD) P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19022 freeze.transunion.com 800-680-7289

More information can also be obtained by contacting the Federal Trade Commission listed above.



### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You've been provided with access to the following services<sup>1</sup> 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'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who can help you determine if it's an indicator of identity theft.

## **Web Watcher**

Web Watcher monitors internet sites where criminals may buy, sell, and trade personal identity information. An alert will be generated if evidence of your personal identity information is found.

#### **Public Persona**

Public Persona monitors and notifies when names, aliases, and addresses become associated with your Social Security number. If information is found, you'll receive an alert.

### Quick Cash Scan

Quick Cash Scan monitors short-term and cash-advance loan sources. You'll receive an alert when a loan is reported, and you can call a Kroll fraud specialist for more information.

## \$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 can dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

<sup>1</sup> Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.