# **BakerHostetler**

# Baker&Hostetler LLP

312 Walnut Street Suite 3200 Cincinnati, OH 45202-4074

T 513.929.3400 F 513.929.0303 www.bakerlaw.com

Craig A. Hoffman direct dial: 513.929.3491 cahoffman@bakerlaw.com

# April 6, 2022

# VIA E-MAIL (DOJ-CPB@DOJ.NH.GOV)

Attorney General John Formella Office of the Attorney General 33 Capitol Street Concord, NH 03301

Re: Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General Formella:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC ("Pingora"), to notify your office of a security incident involving New Hampshire residents.

A security incident involving unauthorized access to Pingora's file servers was identified in early December 2021. Steps were immediately taken to contain the incident, notify law enforcement, and a forensic investigation firm was engaged. The investigation determined that an unauthorized person obtained access to files on Pingora's file storage servers from October 27, 2021 to December 7, 2021. The accessed files were then reviewed by the investigation team to identify the content. On March 7, 2022, the review process generated a list of individuals, including New Hampshire residents, whose name, address, loan number, and Social Security number were included in the files.

On April 6, 2022, Pingora will begin mailing notification letters via United States Postal Service First-Class mail to individuals whose information may have been involved, including to 8,951 New Hampshire residents, in accordance with N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 359-C:20. A copy of the notification letter is enclosed. Pingora is offering eligible individuals complimentary one-year memberships in credit monitoring and identity protection services through Kroll. In addition, Pingora has recommended that residents review their financial account statements and credit reports and report any unauthorized charges or activity and has established a dedicated, toll-free helpline where residents may obtain more information regarding the incident. To prevent something like this from happening in the future, Pingora has taken additional steps to further enhance its existing security measures.

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

Sincerely,

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Craig A. Hoffman Partner

# PINGORA LOAN SERVICING, LLC

<<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>> <<middle\_name>> <<last\_name>> <<suffix>>,

Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC ("Pingora") understands the importance of protecting the information we maintain. We are writing to inform you of an incident that involved some of your information. This notice explains the incident, measures we have taken, and steps that you may consider taking.

Pingora currently or previously owned the servicing rights to a mortgage loan you have or had and used a third party to provide servicing of your loan. A security incident involving unauthorized access to Pingora file servers was identified in early December 2021. Steps were immediately taken to contain the incident, notify law enforcement, and a forensic investigation firm was engaged. The investigation determined that an unauthorized person obtained access to files on our file storage servers from October 27, 2021 to December 7, 2021. The accessed files were then reviewed by our investigation team to identify the content. On March 7, 2022, the review process generated a list of individuals, including you, whose name, address, loan number, and Social Security number were included in the files. For some, the accessed files may also have included information provided in connection with a loan application, loan modification, or other items regarding loan servicing. The additional loan related information in the files is not the same for all individuals.

We wanted to notify you of this incident and assure you that we take it seriously. We engaged Kroll, a third party with monitoring expertise, to provide identity monitoring services at no cost to you for one year. The identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services. You have until <<b2b\_text\_6(activation deadline)>> to activate your identity monitoring services. Membership Number: <<Membership Number s\_n>>

For more information on your complimentary one-year membership, as well as additional steps you can take in response to the incident, please see the additional information provided in this letter and visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

We regret that this incident occurred and apologize for any inconvenience. Additional steps are being taken to further enhance our existing security measures. If you have questions about this notice, please call 1-855-541-3607 from 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Central Time, Monday through Friday (excluding major US holidays).

Sincerely,

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Ron Bendalin, Chief Compliance Officer Pingora Loan Servicing, LLC

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# TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

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

### **Triple Bureau Credit Monitoring**

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data at any of the three national credit bureaus—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 will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

### **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.

If you prefer to activate these services offline and receive monitoring alerts via the US Postal Service, you may activate via our automated phone system by calling 1-888-653-0511, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time, excluding major U.S. holidays. Please have your membership number located in your letter ready when calling. Please note that to activate monitoring services, you will be required to provide your name, date of birth, and Social Security number through our automated phone system.

Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge. 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.

## 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 over the next 12 to 24 months. 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 <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u> 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, <u>www.transunion.com</u>, 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), <u>www.identitytheft.gov</u>

### 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.

#### Additional information for residents of the following states:

**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, <u>www.ncdoj.gov</u>

**Rhode Island:** This incident involves 2,391 individuals in Rhode Island. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described above. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Rhode Island Attorney General's Office*, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, 1-401-274-4400, <u>www.riag.ri.gov</u>

**West Virginia:** You have the right to ask that nationwide consumer reporting agencies place "fraud alerts" in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft, as described above. You also have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, as described above.

A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act: The federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. There are many types of consumer reporting agencies, including credit bureaus and specialty agencies (such as agencies that sell information about check writing histories, medical records, and rental history records). Your major rights under the FCRA are summarized below. For more information, including information about additional rights, go to <u>www.consumerfinance.</u> gov/learnmore or write to: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20552.

- You must be told if information in your file has been used against you.
- You have the right to know what is in your file.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- Consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- · Consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information.
- · Access to your file is limited.
- You must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You have a right to place a "security freeze" on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- · Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.