



**MULLEN
COUGHLIN** LLC **CONSUMER PROTECTION**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2019

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1275 Drummers Lane, Suite 302
Wayne, PA 19087

December 4, 2019

VIA U.S. MAIL

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

Re: Notice of Data Event

Dear Sir or Madam:

We represent Hartman, Blich & Gartside, CPA ("Hartman") located at 4929 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207 and are writing to notify your office of an incident that may affect the security of some personal information relating to two (2) New Hampshire residents. Hartman maintains personal information for its client and is notifying your office about an incident affecting individuals related to its client, as more fully explained below. The investigation into this matter is ongoing, and this notice will be supplemented with any new significant facts learned subsequent to its submission. By providing this notice Hartman does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law, the applicability of the New Hampshire data event notification statute, or personal jurisdiction.

Nature of the Data Event

On or about August 11, 2019, Hartman became aware of a theft occurring at their office on August 11, 2019. Hartman's alarm system was triggered; however, among other things, a computer hard drive containing personal information was stolen. The drive was in temporary use for scanning paper tax source documents (w-2, 1099s etc.) used to prepare tax returns onto the drive, to then be uploaded to a secure, encrypted server. Although the investigation is ongoing, it was determined the hard drive contained old tax source documents which may have contained personal data. There is no definitive evidence that any personal information was accessed or misused, however, out of an abundance of caution, on or about September 25, 2019, Hartman notified data owners of potentially impacted individuals. On October 25, 2019 Hartman received confirmation from the necessary data owners to begin mailing individual notification. On November 8, 2019, Hartman received the necessary mailing information from data owners to complete individual notification.

Hartman continues to fully cooperate with law enforcement as their investigation continues.

The information that could have been subject to unauthorized access includes name, address, Social Security number and certain financial account information.

Notice to New Hampshire Residents

On or about December 3, 2019, Hartman provided written notice of this incident to all affected individuals, which includes two (2) New Hampshire residents. These individuals are associated with the following data owners: National Lipid Association (2). Written notice is being provided in substantially the same form as the letter attached here as *Exhibit A*.

Other Steps Taken and To Be Taken

Upon discovering the event, Hartman moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of Hartman systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. Hartman is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. Hartman is providing access to credit monitoring services for twelve (12) months through ID Experts to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, Hartman is providing impacted individuals with guidance on how to better protect against identity theft and fraud, including advising individuals to report any suspected incidents of identity theft or fraud to their credit card company and/or bank. Hartman is providing individuals with information on how to place a fraud alert and security freeze on one's credit file, information on protecting against tax fraud, the contact details for the national consumer reporting agencies, information on how to obtain a free credit report, a reminder to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing account statements and monitoring free credit reports, and encouragement to contact the Federal Trade Commission, their state Attorney General, and law enforcement to report attempted or actual identity theft and fraud.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions regarding this notification or other aspects of the data security event, please contact us at (267) 930-4776.

Very truly yours,



Edward J. Finn of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

EJF/acl

EXHIBIT A



HARTMAN, BLITCH & GARTSIDE
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

C/O ID Experts
10300 SW Greenburg Rd. Suite 570
Portland, OR 97223

To Enroll, Please Call:
800-939-4170
Or Visit:
<https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect>
Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>> <<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

December 3, 2019

RE: Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<FirstName>> <<LastName>>,

Hartman, Blitch & Gartside (“Hartman”) currently provides or previously provided accounting and tax preparation services for <<Variable Data 1>>. We are very sorry to report our office on Atlantic Blvd was broken into Sunday August 11, 2019 and potentially impacted the security of information <<Variable Data 1>> provided to Hartman. We are unable to confirm whether the information was subject to unauthorized access, but because the possibility exists, we are providing this notice. We are unaware of any attempted or actual misuse of the information. However, we are writing out of an abundance of caution to provide you with steps you can take to better protect yourself against the possibility of identity theft and fraud, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened: On August 11, 2019, Hartman became aware of a theft occurring at our office on August 11, 2019. The thieves triggered our alarm system; however, they did take a computer hard drive. The drive was in temporary use as we were scanning paper tax source documents (w-2, 1099s etc.) used to prepare tax returns onto the drive, to then be uploaded to our secure, encrypted server. Although the investigation is ongoing, we have determined the hard drive contained some of your old tax source documents which may contain your personal data. We have no definitive evidence that any of your information was accessed or misused, but because your information was present on the hard drive, we are notifying you out of an abundance of caution. Hartman is fully cooperating with law enforcement as their investigation continues.

What Information Was Involved: Though the investigation is ongoing, Hartman has determined that the information that may have been included in the old tax source documents may contain your personal data including your social security number.

What We Are Doing: Hartman takes the protection of personal information within our care very seriously. Upon learning of the incident, we immediately began cooperating with law enforcement to assist in their investigation of this incident. We also launched an internal investigation to determine the nature and scope of the event. We understand the severity of this event and are working to review our office protocols. We are including a checklist from IdentityTheft.gov. We strongly recommend you review these guidelines.

- Get a copy of **your free credit report** from www.AnnualCreditReport.com. You’re entitled to one free report from each of the three bureaus once a year, so **we recommend checking one report every four months**.
- If your tax return **included a minor child**, pay close attention to the recommendations regarding children.
- **NEVER believe someone from the IRS is calling you** to demand money—the agency doesn’t work that way! Initial contact will be made only by letter.
- **We’ll be reaching out to you before next tax season** to get your tax return filed as early as possible. **Filing before the identity thief ensures the IRS works with the real you.**

In addition, Hartman is providing information to help you protect yourself against identity theft and fraud, as well as access to 12 months of credit monitoring and identity restoration services with ID Experts at no cost to you. We maintain back-ups of tax returns in our tax software. We can access any prior tax return if needed for reference

What You Can Do: Please review the enclosed packet, "Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Information," to learn more about ways to safeguard your personal information. You may also enroll in the free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services offered by Hartman.

For More Information: We understand that you may have questions that are not answered in this letter. This is why we have established a toll-free hotline to assist you with additional questions regarding this incident. Should you have any questions about the content of this letter or ways which you can help protect yourself from the possibility of identity theft, please call 800-939-4170 between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, excluding major holidays.

We've been serving literally generations of clients for more than 50 years and consider you part of the Hartman, Blich & Gartside family. We all truly regret any inconvenience this may cause you and will be here for you to help handle any related issues...as only family members would. We truly appreciate you and thank you in advance for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam M. Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Adam M. Robinson, CPA, Managing Partner

Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Information

Enroll in Credit Monitoring

We encourage you to contact ID Experts with any questions and to enroll in free MyIDCare services by calling 800-939-4170 or going to <https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. MyIDCare experts are available Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. ET. Please note the deadline to enroll is March 3, 2020.

Monitor Your Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect error over at least the next 12 to 24 months. Under U.S. law you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report.

You have the 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. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a security freeze on your credit report. Should you wish to place a security freeze, please contact the major consumer reporting agencies listed below:

Experian
PO Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion
P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-
909-8872

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 1-800-349-
9960

www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

<http://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services>

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended "fraud alert" on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer's credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below:

Experian
P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-680-7289

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-525-6285

www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert

www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General.

The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226; 1-919-716-6400; and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 410-528-8662; and www.oag.state.md.us. We can be contacted at 4929 Atlantic Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

For Rhode Island Residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be reached at: 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903; www.riag.ri.gov; or 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There is 1 Rhode Island resident potentially impacted by this incident.

For New Mexico residents, you have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the 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 credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violator. You may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

For New York Residents, The Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/>