



MULLEN
COUGHLIN^{LLC}
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RECEIVED

JUL 26 2021

CONSUMER PROTECTION

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426 W. Lancaster Avenue, Suite 200
Devon, PA 19333

July 22, 2021

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 H.G. Fries & Company (“H.G. Fries”) located at 13333 Point Rider Lane, Herndon, VA 20171, 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. 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, H.G. Fries 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

H.G. Fries recently became aware of unusual activity in one of its business email accounts. Upon discovery, H.G. Fries launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, to determine the nature and scope of the activity. H.G. Fries’ investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the affected account in December 2020. H.G. Fries reviewed the contents of the affected account and, on April 21, 2021, confirmed the identities of impacted individuals whose sensitive information was contained in the account.

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

Notice to New Hampshire Residents

On July 22, 2021, H.G. Fries provided written notice of this incident to all affected individuals, which includes two (2) New Hampshire residents. 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

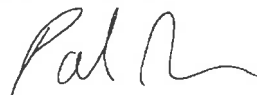
Upon discovering the event, H.G. Fries moved quickly to investigate and respond to the incident, assess the security of H.G. Fries systems, and notify potentially affected individuals. H.G. Fries is also working to implement additional safeguards and training to its employees. H.G. Fries is providing access to credit monitoring services for twenty-four (24) months, through Kroll, to individuals whose personal information was potentially affected by this incident, at no cost to these individuals.

Additionally, H.G. Fries 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. H.G. Fries 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) 930-4788.

Very truly yours,



Paul T. McGurkin, Jr. of
MULLEN COUGHLIN LLC

PTM:bwt

Exhibit A

H.G. Fries & Company
Certified Public Accountant

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

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

RE: Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>:

H.G. Fries & Company (“H.G. Fries”) writes to notify you of an incident that may affect the privacy of some of your information. We take this incident seriously, and this letter provides details of the incident, our response, and steps you may take to better protect against possible misuse of your personal information, should you feel it appropriate to do so.

What Happened? H.G. Fries recently became aware of suspicious activity in an email account used by our business. We immediately launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, to determine the nature and scope of the activity. Our investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the affected account in December 2020. However, we were unable to determine which, if any, emails and attachments in the email account were subject to unauthorized access. Therefore, we reviewed the contents of the affected account to determine what, if any, sensitive information was contained within it. On April 21, 2021, H.G. Fries’ review determined that the account contained certain information related to you.

What Information Was Involved? H.G. Fries determined that the following information related to you was present in the affected account at the time of this incident: your <<b2b_text_1(Data Elements)>>. If your spouse and/or dependents were impacted by this event, we are also mailing them a letter.

What is H.G. Fries Doing? H.G. Fries takes the confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in our care seriously. Upon discovery, we immediately commenced an investigation to confirm the nature and scope of the incident. We are taking steps to implement additional safeguards and review policies and procedures relating to data privacy and security, including changing the password for the affected account.

H.G. Fries is providing you with access to twenty-four (24) months of identity monitoring services through Kroll at no cost to you. A description of services and instructions on how to activate can be found within the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. Please note that you must complete the activation process yourself, as we are not permitted to activate these services on your behalf.

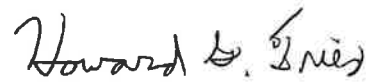
What You Can Do. You can review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. You can also activate the complimentary identity monitoring services through Kroll. We also encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity.

For More Information. We understand you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. If you have questions, please call 1-??-??-???, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Please have your membership number ready.

To ensure your questions are answered in a timely manner, please contact [\[Contact Name\]](#) at 1-??-??-???

H.G. Fries takes the privacy and security of the information in our care seriously. We sincerely regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Howard G. Fries". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Howard Fries
H.G. Fries & Company

Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud

Activate Identity Monitoring

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 two years. 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, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until **October 21, 2021** to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Membership Number s_n>>

Monitor Your Accounts

Under U.S. law, a consumer is entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also directly contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below to request a free copy of your credit report.

Consumers have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on a credit 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 three major credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, consumers have the right to place a “credit freeze” on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without the consumer’s express authorization. The credit 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 credit 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 credit freeze on your credit report. To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Addresses for the prior two to 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.); and
7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a fraud alert or credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

Equifax	Experian	TransUnion
https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/	https://www.experian.com/help/	https://www.transunion.com/credit-help
888-298-0045	1-888-397-3742	833-395-6938
Equifax Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069	Experian Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Fraud Alert, P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
Equifax Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788	Experian Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013	TransUnion Credit Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094

Additional Information

You may further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the consumer reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission may 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 and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag@dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at: 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-410-528-8662 or 1-888-743-0023; and www.oag.state.md.us. H.G. Fries & Company is located at 13333 Point Rider Lane, Herndon, VA 20171.

For North Carolina residents, the North Carolina Attorney General may be contacted at: 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001; 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000; and www.ncdoj.gov.



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services 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 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.

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.