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CONSUMER PROTECTION

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November 12, 2021

**VIA U.S. MAIL**

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

**Re: Howard Law, LLC – Incident Notification**

Dear Mr. Formella:

McDonald Hopkins PLC represents Howard Law, LLC (“Howard Law”). I am writing to provide notification of an incident that may affect the security of personal information of one (1) New Hampshire resident. Howard Law’s investigation is ongoing, and this notification will be supplemented with any new or significant facts or findings subsequent to this submission, if any. By providing this notice, Howard Law does not waive any rights or defenses regarding the applicability of New Hampshire law or personal jurisdiction.

Howard Law learned that as a result of a phishing email, one employee email account may have been compromised. Upon learning of this issue, Howard Law contained and secured the account and commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. The investigation analyzed the extent of any compromise of the email account and the security of the emails and attachments contained within it. After an extensive investigation and manual document review, Howard Law discovered on October 19, 2021 that the email account that was accessed on or around March 5, 2021 contained some personal information, including the residents’ full name and Social Security number.

At the time of this notification, Howard Law is not aware of any reports of identity theft or fraud arising out of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, Howard Law wanted to inform you (and the affected resident) of the incident and to explain the steps that it is taking to help safeguard the affected resident against identity fraud. Howard Law is providing the affected resident with written notification of this incident commencing on or about November 12, 2021 in substantially the same form as the letter attached hereto. Howard Law is offering the affected resident complimentary one-year membership with a credit monitoring service. Howard Law will advise the affected resident to always remain vigilant in reviewing financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. Howard Law will advise the affected resident about the process for placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on their credit files and obtaining free credit reports. The affected resident is also being provided with the contact information for the consumer reporting agencies and the Federal Trade Commission.

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At Howard Law, protecting the privacy of personal information is a top priority. Howard Law is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. Howard Law continually evaluates and modifies its practices to enhance the security and privacy of the personal information it maintains.

Should you have any questions regarding this notification, please contact me at (248) 220-1356 or [dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com](mailto:dpaluzzi@mcdonaldhopkins.com). Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

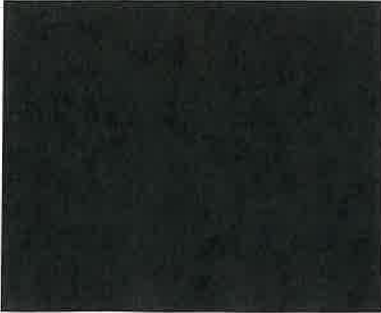


Dominic A. Paluzzi

Encl.

# Howard Law, LLC

Return Mail Processing Center  
PO Box 6336  
Portland, OR 97228-6336



Dear [REDACTED]:

We are writing with important information regarding a security incident. The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to the Howard Law, LLC. We wanted to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services we are making available to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your personal information.

### What Happened?

We learned that as a result of a phishing email, one employee email account may have been compromised.

### What We Are Doing

Upon learning of this issue, we secured the account and launched an investigation in consultation with outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations. Our investigation analyzed the extent of any compromise of the email account and the security of the emails and attachments contained within it. We devoted considerable time and effort to determine what information was contained in the affected email account. After an extensive investigation and manual document review, we discovered on October 19, 2021 that the email account that was accessed on or around March 5, 2021 contained some of your personal information. We have no evidence that this information was accessed, however we wanted to notify you of this incident.

### What Information Was Involved?

Based on our comprehensive investigation and manual document review, we discovered that the compromised email account contained your [REDACTED].

### What You Can Do

To date, we are not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of your information as a direct result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we wanted to make you aware of the incident, explain the services we are making available to help safeguard you against identity fraud, and suggest steps that you should take as well. To protect you from potential misuse of your information, we are offering you a one-year membership in myTrueIdentity provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion. For more information on identity theft prevention and myTrueIdentity, including instructions on how to activate your one-year membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and Security Freeze on your credit files, and obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis. To the extent that it is helpful, we have offered suggestions for protecting your medical information.

*For More Information.*

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

**If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED]. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 9am - 9pm Eastern.**

Sincerely,

Howard Law, LLC

- OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION -

**1. Enrolling in Complimentary 12-Month Credit Monitoring.**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (myTrueIdentity) for one year provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion<sup>®</sup>, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

To enroll in this service, go to the myTrueIdentity website at [www.mytrueidentity.com](http://www.mytrueidentity.com) and in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code", enter the following 12-letter Activation Code [REDACTED] and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.

[REDACTED]. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring service **might not be available** for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion, or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

Once you are enrolled, you will be able to obtain one year of unlimited access to your TransUnion credit report and credit score. The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, change of address and more. The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event your identity is compromised to help you restore your identity and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible. (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

If you believe you may be a victim of identity theft, please call the toll-free TransUnion Fraud Response Services hotline at 1-855-288-5422. When prompted, enter the following 6-digit telephone pass code [REDACTED] to speak to a TransUnion representative about your identity theft issue.

**2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.**

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 12-month credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial one-year "Fraud Alert" on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

***Equifax***

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>  
(800) 525-6285

***Experian***

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>  
(888) 397-3742

***TransUnion LLC***

P.O. Box 6790  
Fullerton, PA 92834-6790  
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>  
(800) 680-7289

**3. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.**

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a "Security Freeze" be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

***Equifax Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>  
1-800-685-1111

***Experian Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<http://experian.com/freeze>  
1-888-397-3742

***TransUnion Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016  
<http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze>  
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, 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 reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing 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.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the city in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

#### 4. **Obtaining a Free Credit Report.**

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

#### 5. **Additional Helpful Resources.**

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft), by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If this notice letter states that your financial account information and/or credit or debit card information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

#### 6. **Protections from Medical Identity Theft**

We are also providing the following guidance, which can help to protect you from medical identity theft.

- Only share your health insurance cards with your health care providers and other family members who are covered under your insurance plan or who help you with your medical care.
- Review your "explanation of benefits statement" which you receive from your health insurance company. Follow up with your insurance company or care provider for any items you do not recognize. If necessary, contact the care provider on the explanation of benefits statement and ask for copies of medical records from the date of the potential access (noted above) to current date.
- Ask your insurance company for a current year-to-date report of all services paid for you as a beneficiary. Follow up with your insurance company or the care provider for any items you do not recognize.

**Maryland Residents:** You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, [www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer](http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer), Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

**New York Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755.

**North Carolina Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, [www.ncdoj.gov/](http://www.ncdoj.gov/), Telephone: 877-566-7226.

**Iowa Residents:** You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General's Office to report suspected incidents of identity Theft: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Consumer Protection Division, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, [www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov), Telephone: (515) 281-5164.

**Oregon Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General's Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, [www.doj.state.or.us/](http://www.doj.state.or.us/), Telephone: 877-877-9392