

# CLARK HILL

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February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Attorney General Gordon MacDonald**  
Office of the Attorney General  
33 Capitol Street  
Concord, NH 03302  
Via email to [attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov](mailto:attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov)

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

We represent Lionel LaSalle, II CPA (“LaSalle CPA”) with respect to a data security incident involving the potential exposure of certain personally identifiable information described in more detail below. LaSalle CPA is located in Jewett City, Connecticut, and provides accounting services to its clients. LaSalle CPA is committed to answering any questions you may have about the data security incident, its response, and steps taken to prevent a similar incident in the future.

## **1. Nature of security incident.**

On January 31, 2019, LaSalle CPA became aware that some of its clients had experienced fraudulent tax filings. LaSalle CPA immediately began an investigation to determine whether its systems were secure, and hired an independent computer forensics firm to assist. On February 12, 2019, the forensic investigation determined that an unauthorized individual may have accessed LaSalle CPA’s computer network between March 23, 2018 and June 11, 2018. While there is no evidence that any of the files or information was accessed by an unauthorized individual, LaSalle CPA sent letters to its clients informing them of the data security incident because their names, addresses, Social Security numbers, bank account information, and other tax related information were stored on the system.

## **2. Number of residents affected.**

Three (3) New Hampshire residents may have been affected and were notified of the incident. A notification letter was sent to the potentially affected individuals on February 28, 2019 via regular mail (a copy of the form notification letter is enclosed).

February 28, 2018

Page 2

**3. Steps taken or plan to take relating to the incident.**

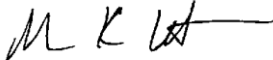
LaSalle CPA took immediate action to address this incident and prevent a similar incident in the future. Steps taken include implementing additional security protocols for any remote access to LaSalle CPA's system, and changing passwords to all employee accounts. Additionally, LaSalle CPA hired an independent forensic investigator to assist with investigating the incident. The notification letter included details about the security incident as well as information about the Federal Trade Commission and the three major credit reporting agencies. The letter offered free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services through ID Experts for two years. LaSalle CPA also provided customers with a toll-free number for any questions.

**4. Contact information.**

LaSalle CPA takes the security of the information in its control seriously, and is committed to ensuring its customers' information is protected. If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mventrone@clarkhill.com](mailto:mventrone@clarkhill.com) or (312) 360-2506.

Very truly yours,

CLARK HILL



Melissa K. Ventrone

Enclosure

**Lionel LaSalle II, CPA**  
Certified Public Accountant & Business Advisor

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

To Enroll, Please Call:  
(800) 939-4170  
Or Visit:  
<https://ide.myidcare.com/lasallecpa>  
Enrollment Code:  
<<XXXXXXXXXX>>

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

February 28, 2019

**Notice of Data Security Incident**

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

We are writing to notify you of a data security incident experienced by Lionel LaSalle, II CPA (“LaSalle CPA”) that may have impacted your personal information, including your name and Social Security number. We value and respect the privacy of your information, and sincerely apologize for any concern or inconvenience this may cause you. This letter contains information about steps you can take to protect your information, and resources we are making available to help you.

**What happened:**

On January 31, 2019, we learned that some of LaSalle CPA’s clients had experienced fraudulent tax filings. We immediately began an investigation to determine whether our systems were secure, and hired an independent computer forensics firm to assist. On February 12, 2019, the forensic investigator informed us that an unauthorized individual may have accessed files on LaSalle CPA’s computer network. From our review, it appears the files at risk may have contained your name, address, and Social Security number, bank account information if you provided this to us, and other tax related information.

**What we are doing and what you can do:**

The security and privacy of your information is important to us, that is why we are offering identity theft protection services through ID Experts®, the data breach and recovery services expert, to provide you with MyIDCare™. MyIDCare services include: 24 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed ID theft recovery services. With this protection, MyIDCare will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

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://ide.myidcare.com/lasallecpa> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. MyIDCare experts are available Monday through Friday from 8 am - 7 pm Central Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is May 28, 2019.

If you received a fraudulent deposit from the IRS into your bank account as a result of this incident, the IRS has recommended the following:

1. Do not spend this money, as it must be returned to the IRS.
2. Contact your bank’s fraud department and let them know that the money was deposited as a result of a fraudulent tax filing, and that the deposit should be reversed as soon as possible.
3. Do not return the money by check. The most reliable way for the money to be returned and credited to you is to instruct your bank to reverse the deposit.
4. If you have any issues with your bank and the return of the money, please contact your tax preparer at LaSalle CPA.

Additionally, if you know or suspect you are a victim of tax-related identity theft, the IRS recommends the following steps:

- Respond immediately to any IRS written notice. **The IRS will not contact you via phone.**
- If you received a Letter 4883C from the IRS indicating that they received a suspicious tax return with your name on it, you should follow the instructions on that letter to verify your identity with the IRS. Once you verify your identity, you can advise the IRS that you did not file the suspicious tax return. Additionally, you may be asked to file a paper return for the current filing season.
- If you believe you may be a victim of tax fraud but have not received a Letter 4883C from the IRS, you should fill out and submit IRS Form 14039, which is available at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov). LaSalle CPA can provide you with a copy of that form and assist you with filling it out if you would like. If you plan on filing on extension, please contact your LaSalle CPA tax professional for more information.

If you previously contacted the IRS and did not have a resolution, contact the IRS for specialized assistance at 1-800-908-4490. The IRS has teams available to assist. You may also visit <https://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Identity-Protection> for more information.

We also want you to know that we took immediate action to enhance our security and prevent a similar incident in the future. We implemented additional security protocols for any remote access to our system, and changed passwords to all employee accounts. We also provided your name and Social Security number to the IRS to help detect possible fraud.

**For more information:**

If you have any questions or concerns, please call at (800) 939-4170, Monday through Friday, 8 am - 7 pm Central Time. Your trust is a top priority for LaSalle CPA, and we deeply regret any inconvenience or concern that this matter may cause you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lionel LaSalle II, CPA".

Lionel LaSalle II, CPA

## U.S. State Notification Requirements

### **For residents of Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, 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 by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

#### **Equifax**

P.O. Box 105139  
Atlanta, GA 30374  
1-800-685-1111  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

#### **Experian**

P.O. Box 2002  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

#### **TransUnion**

P.O. Box 6790  
Fullerton, CA 92834  
1-800-916-8800  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

You may also obtain a free copy of your credit report online at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), by calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by mailing an Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

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### **For residents of Iowa:**

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

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### **For residents of Oregon:**

State laws advise you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, as well as the Federal Trade Commission.

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

You can obtain information from the Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island 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 Attorney General**

Consumer Protection Div.  
200 St. Paul Place  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
1-888-743-0023  
[www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us)

#### **North Carolina Attorney General**

Consumer Protection Div.  
9001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001  
1-877-566-7226  
[www.ncdoj.com](http://www.ncdoj.com)

#### **Rhode Island Attorney General**

Consumer Protection Div.  
150 South Main Street  
Providence, RI 02903  
(401) 274-4400  
[www.riag.ri.gov](http://www.riag.ri.gov)

#### **Federal Trade Commission**

Consumer Response Center  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue,  
NW  
Washington, DC 20580  
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)  
[www.identityTheft.gov](http://www.identityTheft.gov)

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### **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.

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### **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 send a request to each consumer reporting agency by certified mail, overnight mail, or regular stamped mail. 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 fee of up to \$5.00 to place a freeze or lift 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 agencies:

#### **Equifax Security Freeze**

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

#### **Experian Security Freeze**

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<http://www.experian.com/freeze>

#### **TransUnion (FVAD)**

P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

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