

# CIPRIANI & WERNER

JAN 25 2022

A Professional Corporation

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

450 Sentry Parkway, Suite 200 Blue Bell, Pennsylvania 19422

Telephone: (610) 567-0700 Fax: (610) 567-0712

January 21, 2022

COMSUMES AND STORY OF JUSTICE 25 2022 PKI2: 36

DIANNA M. HALL dhall@c-wlaw.com

mbonner@c-wlaw.com

MICHAEL J. BONNER

Via First Class Mail
Office of Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03302

RE: Data Breach Notification

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for Medical Healthcare Solutions, Inc. ("MHS"), located at 300 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810, and provide this notification to you of a recent data breach. By providing this notice, MHS does not waive any rights or defenses under New Hampshire law, including the data breach notification statute.

MHS provides surgical billing services to Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc. ("HMFP") and Associated Physicians of Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Inc. ("APHMFP"), which provide physician services to the follow hospitals impacted by this incident: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Plymouth, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton, Anna Jaques Hospital, and Mount Auburn Hospital. On November 19, 2021, MHS discovered it was the victim of a sophisticated ransomware attack. MHS immediately engaged a third-party computer forensics specialist to conduct an investigation. The investigation determined the threat actor ("TA") accessed MHS' network using Remote Desktop Protocol ("RDP") and usernames associated with a known MHS third-party vendor to deploy an encryption executable on MHS' network. The investigation further determined that between October 1 and October 4 of 2021, the TA acquired certain data on MHS' network.

MHS successfully restored affected systems from available backups and notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation about this incident. MHS refused to comply with the TA's ransom demand, and on November 1, 2021, discovered the TA posted data taken during the incident to the TA's blog on the Dark Web. MHS reviewed the posted information and determined it related to certain HMFP and APHMFP patients whose information MHS received between July 2018 and October 1, 2021. Consequently, MHS prepared a report of patients and associated data elements during this timeframe. MHS also worked with third-party data review specialists to review additional documents acquired by the TA. On January 8, 2022, MHS completed its review and identified the number of potentially affected individuals and related data elements. The type of data affected for New Hampshire residents varied by individual but included name and the following data elements: address, date of birth, Social Security number, diagnosis/treatment information, procedure type, provider name, date of service, medical record number, patient account number, insurance ID number, claim number, insurance plan name, sex, phone number, provider ID number, procedure code, treatment cost, and diagnosis code. The number of affected New Hampshire residents included 2,756 related to HMFP, 99 related to APHMFP, and 71 related to both organizations

On January 21, 2022, MHS provided written notice of this incident to affected individuals, including the 2,929 total New Hampshire residents potentially impacted. The notice includes an offer of complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for 24 months. A copy of the notice is attached hereto as *Exhibit A*. MHS is also notifying the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In response to this incident, MHS rebuilt and strengthened a significant portion of its network, and as an added precaution, implemented additional security policies and procedures. These include restricting IP access to its network, resetting account passwords, implementing multi-factor authentication ("MFA") for both network and email account access, and coordinating additional employee training related to network security.

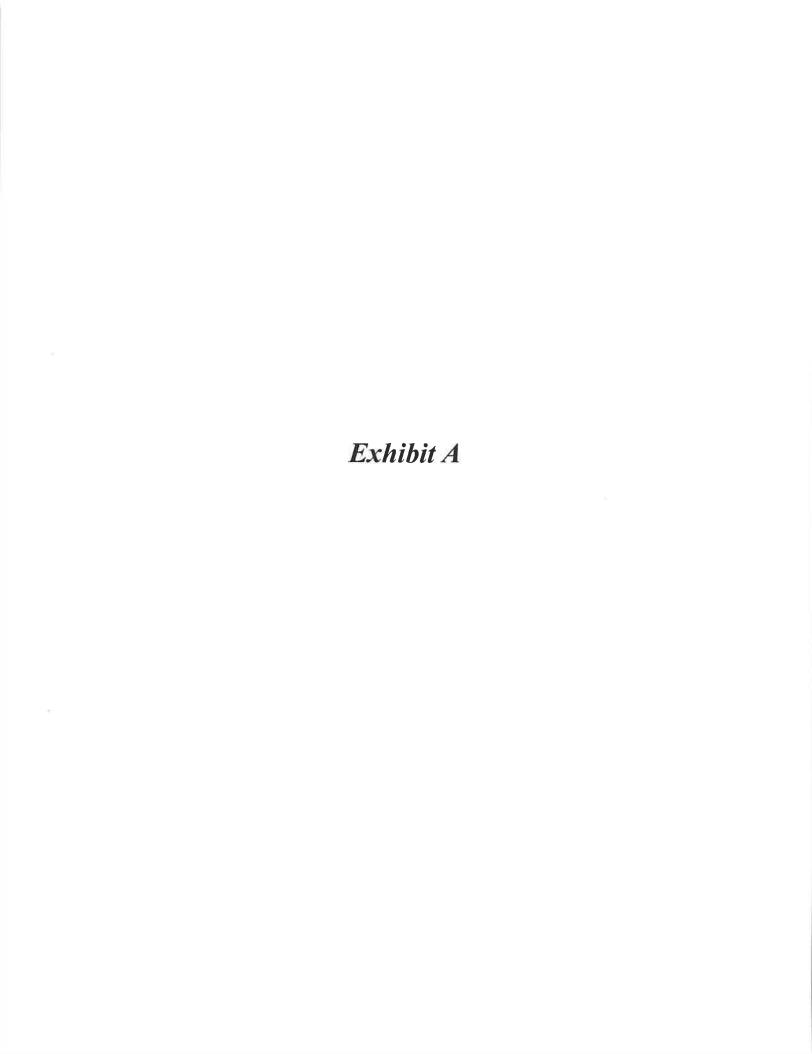
Please contact me should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By:

Michael J. Bonner, Esq.





Return Mail Processing Center P.O. Box 6336 Portland, OR 97228-6336

<<Mail ID>>
<<Name I>>
<<Name 2>>
<<Address I>>
<<Address 3>>
<<Address 3>>
<<Address 4>>
<<Address 5>>
<<City>>><State>>><Zip>>
<<Country>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<Name 1>>:

This letter serves as notification from Medical Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (MHS), which provides surgical billing services to physician groups, that a recent cyber incident by an unauthorized individual on our network may have affected the privacy of some of your Protected Health Information (PHI). The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to MHS. We are providing the following details of the incident and steps taken to provide you with increased protection and ongoing support.

What Happened? On November 19, 2021, MHS discovered that an unauthorized party removed certain files from our network between October 1 and 4, 2021. After an extensive forensic investigation, on January 8, 2022, MHS identified a final list of impacted PHI, which included your information.

What We Are Doing. MHS immediately locked down our network data system, launched a comprehensive investigation utilizing third-party computer specialists, and notified law enforcement. MHS has since stabilized and reopened the network, and implemented additional security measures to further protect our data system.

What Information Was Involved? The impacted PHI data may have included your name and the following information from medical care that you received from the physicians group <<Entity>>. The impacted PHI includes: <<Data Elements>>.

Entity>> provides physician services at the following hospitals where you may have received care, including but not limited to: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Plymouth, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton, Anna Jaques Hospital, and Mount Auburn Hospital.

<u>If hat You Can Do.</u> MHS is providing potentially impacted individuals free access to 24 months of credit monitoring and identity protection services. Information about how to enroll in these services is included in the attached <u>Steps You Can Take To Protect Your Information</u>. This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert or Security Freeze on your credit files, and obtaining a free credit report. In addition, we are offering best practices to protect your medical information.

For More Information. Protecting the privacy of PHI is the top priority for MHS. We apologize for any concerns this situation may have caused you. We will continue to take every precaution to protect your personal information, and support your ability to monitor and protect your information moving forward.

MHS has also established a dedicated assistance line at 855-675-3125, 9am – 9pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (excluding major U.S. holidays), or you may write to us at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.

Sincerely.

Medical Healthcare Solutions, Inc.

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

We encourage you to always remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements and explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

## 1. Enroll in Credit Monitoring / Identity Protection

## **Enrollment Instructions**

Go to www.equifax.com/activate and enter your unique Activation Code of <<Activation Code>>> then click "Submit" and follow these 4 steps:

Register: Complete the form with your contact information and click "Continue". If you already have a myEquifax account, click the 'Sign in here' link under the "Let's get started" header. Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4.

Create Account: Enter your email address, create a password, and accept the terms of use.

Verify Identity: To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.

Checkout: Upon successful verification of your identity, you will see the Checkout Page. Click 'Sign Me Up' to finish enrolling. The confirmation page shows your completed enrollment. Click "View My Product" to access the product features.

### **Key Features**

Credit monitoring with email notifications of key changes to your Equifax credit report

Daily access to your Equifax credit report

WebScan notifications when your personal information, such as Social Security number, credit/debit card or bank account numbers are found on fraudulent Internet trading sites

Automatic fraud alerts, which encourages potential lenders to take extra steps to verify your identity before extending credit, plus blocked inquiry alerts and Equifax credit report lock

Identity Restoration to help restore your identity should you become a victim of identity theft, and a dedicated Identity Restoration Specialist to work on your behalf

Up to \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance coverage for certain out of pocket expenses resulting from identity theft (conditions apply).

#### 2. Place a Fraud Alert or Security Freeze on Your Credit File

You have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, 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 lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you 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 your 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 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 credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);

Social Security number;

3. Date of birth:

Address for the prior two to five years;

Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;

A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); and 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:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289 www.transunion.com

TransUnion Fraud Alert P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000

TransUnion Credit Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 Experian 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com

Experian Fraud Alert P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013

Experian Credit Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 Equifax 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com

Equifax Fraud Alert P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069

Equifax Credit Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788

# 3. Protect Your Medical Information.

We have no evidence that your medical information involved in this incident was or will be used for any unintended purposes. However, the following practices can provide additional safeguards to protect against 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.

#### 4. Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; <a href="www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

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, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; and www.oag.state.md.us. MHS may be contacted at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.

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: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) and you may seek damages from violators. 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 <a href="https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf">https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf</a>, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

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

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 <a href="https://www.ncdoj.gov">www.ncdoj.gov</a>.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; and <a href="https://www.riag.ri.gov">www.riag.ri.gov</a>. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are ## Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

For Washington, D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 441 4th Street NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400, and <a href="https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection">https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection</a>. MHS may be contacted at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.



Return Mail Processing Center P.O. Box 6336 Portland, OR 97228-6336

<Mail 1D>>
Parent/Guardian of
<Name 1>>
<Name 2>>
<Address 1>>
<Address 2>>
<Address 3>>
<Address 4>>
<Address 5>>
<City>><State>><Zip>>>
<Country>>

<<Date>>

Dear Parent/Guardian of << Name 1>>:

This letter serves as notification from Medical Healthcare Solutions, Inc. (MHS), which provides surgical billing services to physician groups, that a recent cyber incident by an unauthorized individual on our network may have affected the privacy of some of your minor's Protected Health Information (PHI). The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to MHS. We are providing the following details of the incident and steps taken to provide you with increased protection and ongoing support.

What Happened? On November 19, 2021, MHS discovered that an unauthorized party removed certain files from our network between October 1 and 4, 2021. After an extensive forensic investigation, on January 8, 2022, MHS identified a final list of impacted PHI, which included your minor's information.

<u>What We Are Doing.</u> MHS immediately locked down our network data system, launched a comprehensive investigation utilizing third-party computer specialists, and notified law enforcement. MHS has since stabilized and reopened the network, and implemented additional security measures to further protect our data system.

What Information Was Involved? The impacted PHI data may have included your minor's name and the following information from medical care that your minor received from the physicians group <<Entity>>. The impacted PHI includes: <<Data Elements>>.

Entity>> provides physician services at the following hospitals where your minor may have received care, including but not limited to: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Plymouth, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Milton, Anna Jaques Hospital, and Mount Auburn Hospital.

<u>What You Can Do.</u> MHS is providing potentially impacted individuals access to 24 months of identity protection services. Information about how to enroll in these services is included in the attached *Steps You Can Take To Protect Your Minor's Information*. This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your minor's personal information.

For More Information. Protecting the privacy of PHI is the first priority of MHS. We apologize for any concerns this situation may have caused you. We will continue to take every precaution to protect personal information, and support your ability to monitor and protect your minor's information moving forward.

MHS has also established a dedicated assistance line at 855-675-3125, 9am – 9pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (excluding major U.S. holidays), or you may write to us at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.

Sincerely,

Medical Healthcare Solutions, Inc.

#### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR MINOR'S INFORMATION

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your minor's account statements and your explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Although minors typically do not have a credit report, under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

#### 1. Enroll in Identity Protection

## **Enrollment Instructions**

Parent/guardian go to www.equifax.com/activate. Enter your unique Activation Code of <<Activation Code>>> then click "Submit" and follow these 4 steps:

- 1. Register: Complete the form with parent/guardian contact information and click "Continue". If you already have a myEquifax account, click the 'Sign in here' link under the "Let's get started" header. Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4.
- 2. Create Account: Enter parent/guardian email address, create a password, and to accept the terms of use.
- Verify Identity: To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.
   Checkout: Upon successful verification of parent/guardian identity, you will see the Checkout Page. Click 'Sign Me Up' to finish enrolling.
  - The confirmation page shows parent/guardian completed enrollment.
  - Click "View My Product" to access the product features and enroll minor children.

#### **Key Features**

- Child Monitoring for up to four children under the age of 18
- Emailed notifications to the primary adult member of activity on the child's Equifax credit report

# 2. Place a Credit Freeze on Your Minor's Credit File

You have the right to place a **credit freeze** on your minor's file, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit file without your express authorization. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on a credit file. To request a credit freeze for your minor, you will need to provide the following information for both you and your minor:

- 1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth; and
- 4. Address for the prior two to five years.

Include for your identification:

- 5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;
- 6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); and

7. Proof that you are the parent or legal guardian of the minor.

Include for your minor's identification:

- 8. A copy of your minor's Social Security card; and
- 9. A copy of your minor's birth certificate.

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

TransUnion	Experian	Equifax
1-800-680-7289	1-888-397-3742	1-888-298-0045
www.transunion.com	www.experian.com	www.equifax.com
TransUnion Security Freeze	Experian Security Freeze	Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 160	P.O. Box 9554	P.O. Box 105788
Woodlyn, PA 19094	Allen, TX 75013	Atlanta, GA 30348

## 3. Protect Your Medical Information.

We have no evidence that your minor's medical information involved in this incident was or will be used for any unintended purposes. However, the following practices can provide additional safeguards to protect against medical identity theft.

 Only share 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.

# 4. Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your minor's personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; <a href="www.identitytheft.gov">www.identitytheft.gov</a>; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You have the right to file a police report if your minor experiences 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 your minor has been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General may be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202; 1-888-743-0023; and <a href="https://www.oag.state.md.us">www.oag.state.md.us</a>. MHS may be contacted at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.

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: (i) the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; (ii) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; (v) you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; (vi) and you may seek damages from violators. 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 <a href="https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf">https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf</a>, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, FTC, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

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

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.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General may be contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903; 1-401-274-4400; and <a href="https://www.riag.ri.gov">www.riag.ri.gov</a>. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are # Rhode Island residents impacted by this incident.

For Washington, D.C. residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at 441 4th Street NW #1100, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400, and <a href="https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection">https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection</a>. MHS may be contacted at P.O. Box 3160, Andover, MA 01810-0803.