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APR 26 2019

CONSUMER PROTECTION

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April 25, 2019

VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL

Attorney General Gordon MacDonald
New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General
33 Capitol Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Incident Notification

Dear Attorney General MacDonald:

We are writing on behalf of our client, Scott Associates, CPA's ("Scott Associates"), to notify you of a security incident involving ten New Hampshire residents.

Scott Associates recently learned of a potential security incident when a small number of client tax returns were rejected as being previously filed. Scott Associates immediately took steps to investigate its systems and engaged a leading cyber security firm to assist. On March 22, 2019, the investigation determined that an unauthorized individual had accessed certain Scott Associate systems and created backup files from its tax preparation software between February 21 to February 28, 2019. The investigation was not able to determine if the backup files were acquired by the unauthorized individual. Additionally, the investigation determined that the unauthorized individual may have accessed certain emails and attachments contained in an employee email account. Scott Associates reviewed the full contents of the backup files, and the emails and attachments that could have been viewed by the unauthorized individual, for personal information. As a result of its review, Scott Associates identified the names and Social Security numbers of ten New Hampshire residents.

On April 25, 2019, Scott Associates will begin mailing notification letters via U.S. First-Class mail to the New Hampshire residents, in substantially the same form as the enclosed letter, pursuant to N.H. Rev. Stat. § 359-C:20.¹ Scott Associates is offering individuals with a Social Security number or driver's license number at issue a complimentary, one-year membership to

¹ This notice does not waive Scott Associates' objection that New Hampshire lacks personal jurisdiction over it regarding any claims related to this incident.

Atlanta Chicago Cincinnati Cleveland Columbus Costa Mesa Denver
Houston Los Angeles New York Orlando Philadelphia Seattle Washington, DC

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credit monitoring and identity theft protection services. Scott Associates has also established a dedicated call center where all individuals may obtain more information regarding the incident.

To further protect personal information, Scott Associates is taking steps to enhance its security procedures, including enabling multifactor authentication, and providing additional employee training.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David E. Kitchen", is written over a horizontal line.

David E. Kitchen
Partner

Enclosure



650 Brighton Ave – Portland, ME 04102-1035
Tel. 207-772-0441 • Fax 207-772-2636

Return Mail Processing Center
PO Box 9349
Dublin, Ohio 43017

<<Name>>
<<Address 1>>
<<Address 2>>
<<Address 3>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

April 25, 2019

Dear <<Name>>:

At Scott Associates, CPA's ("Scott Associates") we recognize the importance of protecting the privacy of our clients' information. We are writing to provide you with information regarding an incident involving your personal information. This letter describes the incident, outlines the measures we have taken in response, and advises you on steps that you can take to help protect your information.

We recently learned of a potential security incident when a small number of client tax returns were rejected as being previously filed. We immediately took steps to investigate our systems and engaged a leading cyber security firm to assist. On March 22, 2019, our investigation determined that an unauthorized individual had accessed certain Scott Associate systems and created backup files from our tax preparation software between February 21 and February 28, 2019. <<v1>> <<v2>> We are notifying you of this incident so that you can take steps to protect your information, which included your <<v3>>.

We have also notified the IRS, FBI, and state taxing authorities. The IRS has indicated to us that they will monitor affected clients' returns for the purposes of attempting to prevent fraudulent tax refunds from being paid out. Scott Associates will continue to investigate the incident and remediate any issues discovered.

We encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements for any unauthorized activity. As a precaution, we are offering you a complimentary one-year membership with Experian's® IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. **For more information on IdentityWorksSM, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary one-year membership, as well as some additional steps you can take to protect yourself, please see the additional information provided in this letter.**

The safety and security of your personal information is of our highest priority, and we apologize for any concern or inconvenience this incident may cause. To further protect personal information, we are taking steps to enhance our security procedures, including enabling multifactor authentication, and providing additional employee training. If you have any questions about this matter, please call (855) 424-0468, Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

Steven Scott, CPA

Activate IdentityWorks Credit 3B Now in Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: **7.31.19** (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll: www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
3. PROVIDE the **Activation Code**: [Code]

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **877.890.9332** by **7.31.19**. Be prepared to provide engagement number **DB12146** as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS CREDIT 3B MEMBERSHIP:

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian, Equifax and Transunion files for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **Up to \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent at **877.890.9332**. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that Identity Restoration support is needed, then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that this Identity Restoration support is available to you for one year from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration. You will also find self-help tips and information about identity protection at this site.

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** Identity theft insurance is underwritten by insurance company subsidiaries or affiliates of American International Group, Inc. (AIG). The description herein is a summary and intended for informational purposes only and does not include all terms, conditions and exclusions of the policies described. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Regardless of whether you choose to take advantage of this complimentary credit monitoring service, we remind you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

Experian, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

Equifax, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

If you are a resident of Maryland, or North Carolina, you may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at:

Maryland Attorney General's Office, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us, 1-888-743-0023 (toll free when calling within Maryland) or 410-576-6300 (for calls originating outside Maryland)

North Carolina Attorney General's Office, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699, www.ncdoj.gov, 1-919-716-6400 or toll free at 1-877-566-7226

If you are a resident of West Virginia, you have the right to ask that nationwide consumer reporting agencies place "fraud alerts" in your file to let potential creditors and others know that you may be a victim of identity theft, as described below. You also have a right to place a security freeze on your credit report, as described below.

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for at least 90 days. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

Credit Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a security freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a security freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit.

There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com

TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com

Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

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 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 the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft

The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five business days and provide you with a unique personal identification number ("PIN") or password or both that can be used by you to authorize the removal or lifting of the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, or to lift a security freeze for a specified period of time, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to the credit reporting agencies and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identity of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to each of the three credit bureaus and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to remove the security freeze.

Fair Credit Reporting Act: You also have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act, which promotes the accuracy, fairness, and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. The FTC has published a list of the primary rights created by the FCRA (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf>), and that article refers individuals seeking more information to visit www.ftc.gov/credit. The FTC's list of FCRA rights includes:

- You have the right to receive a copy of your credit report. The copy of your report must contain all the information in your file at the time of your request.
- Each of the nationwide credit reporting companies – Experian, TransUnion and Equifax – is required to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months.
- You are also entitled to a free report if a company takes adverse action against you, like denying your application for credit, insurance, or employment, and you ask for your report within 60 days of receiving notice of the action. The notice will give you the name, address, and phone number of the credit reporting company. You're also entitled to one free report a year if you're unemployed and plan to look for a job within 60 days; if you're on welfare; or if your report is inaccurate because of fraud, including identity theft.
- You have the right to ask for a credit score.
- You have the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information.
- 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. And you must give your consent for reports to be provided to employers.
- You may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report.
- You may seek damages from violators.
- Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have additional rights.