

# MCCATHERN PLLC NOTICE OF DATA SECURITY INCIDENT

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to McCathern PLLC.

McCathern PLLC recently discovered that an unauthorized actor accessed portions of our network as a result of a sophisticated cybersecurity incident. Upon detecting the incident, we commenced an immediate and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we engaged leading cybersecurity experts to identify what personal information, if any, might have been present in the impacted files.

After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review we discovered on September 5, 2023 that the files that were accessed November 28-29, 2022 contained some personal information, which includes Social Security Numbers, health insurance information, medical condition or treatment information, driver's license information, and/or passport numbers. McCathern PLLC has no evidence that any personal information has been or will be misused as a direct result of this incident. However, out of abundance of caution, McCathern PLLC notified individuals whose information may have been included in the files accessed by the unauthorized party. Notified individuals have been offered complimentary credit monitoring.

McCathern PLLC is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in its possession and has taken many precautions to safeguard it. For individuals who have questions or need additional information regarding this incident, McCathern PLLC has established a dedicated toll-free response line at 1-800-405-6108. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm ET, excluding holidays.

# OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **1. PLACING A FRAUD ALERT ON YOUR CREDIT FILE**

You may 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 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069 www.equifax.com (800) 525-6285

Experian P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com (888) 397-3742 TransUnion Fraud Victim Assistance Department P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000 www.transunion.com (800) 680-7289

#### 2. 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 30348-5788 www.equifax.com (888) 298-0045 Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 www.experian.com (888) 397-3742 TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 www.transunion.com (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.

### **3. 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**. 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.

#### 4. 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, 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.