



Edwards CPA Group P.C.
P.O. Box 989728
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address1>> <<Address2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>
<<Country>> or <<IMB>>

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>

September 27, 2024

Incident Notice

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

This letter is from Edwards CPA Group P.C. (“Edwards CPA”). We are sorry to tell you about a data security incident that may have involved some of your personal information (the “Incident”). Edwards CPA takes the protection of your information seriously, and we regret any inconvenience this may cause. Massachusetts regulations prohibit us from disclosing information on this incident in this notification letter. However, details are available through our call center helpline, as described below.

You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from a consumer's credit report without written authorization. However, please be aware that placing a security freeze on your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prevent the timely approval of any requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing, or other services. Under federal law, you cannot be charged to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You must place your request for a freeze with each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion. To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may send a written request by regular, certified, or overnight mail at the addresses below. You may also place a security freeze through each of the consumer reporting agencies' websites or over the phone, using the contact information below:

Equifax Security Freeze, P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-349-9960
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>

Experian Security Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
<https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>

TransUnion Security Freeze, P.O. Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-888-909-8872
<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

To request a security freeze, you will need to provide some or all of the following information to the credit reporting agency, depending on whether you do so online, by phone, or by mail:

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 (5) years, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill, telephone bill, rental agreement, or deed;
6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
8. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

The credit reporting agencies have one (1) to three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report, based upon the method of your request. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five (5) 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. It is important to maintain this PIN/password in a secure place, as you will need it to lift or remove the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (including 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 identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report. You may also temporarily lift a security freeze for a specified period of time rather than for a specific entity or individual, using the same contact information above. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for request made by mail) after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide 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 between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for requests made by mail) after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

In addition, we are offering identity theft protection services through IDX. IDX identity protection 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, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised. We encourage you to contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in free identity protection services by calling 1-800-939-4170 or going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is December 27, 2024. In the event this letter was addressed to a minor or to someone deceased, please call the above number and alert a representative. The services described herein can be modified accordingly.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering. IDX representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

Edwards CPA apologizes for the inconvenience this may cause. We are committed to maintaining the security and privacy of personal information. We want you to be assured that we are taking steps to minimize the chances of a similar occurrence happening again. We understand that you may have questions about this incident that are not addressed in this letter. Please call 1-800-939-4170 or go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> for assistance or for any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Edwards
Edwards CPA Group P.C.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED STEPS

We recommend you remain vigilant and consider taking the following steps to avoid identity theft, obtain additional information, and protect your personal information:

- Order Your Free Credit Report at www.annualcreditreport.com, call toll-free at 877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's website at www.ftc.gov. When you receive your credit report, review the entire report carefully. Look for any inaccuracies and/or accounts you don't recognize and notify the credit bureaus as soon as possible in the event there are any. You have rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act ("FCRA"). These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information.
- Place a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File. In addition to the security freeze detailed above, a fraud alert helps protect you against an identity thief opening new credit in your name. With this alert, when a merchant checks your credit history when you apply for credit, the merchant will receive a notice that you may be a victim of identity theft and to take steps to verify your identity. You can place a fraud alert by contacting the credit bureaus. The credit bureaus may require that you provide proper identification prior to honoring your request.

Equifax
Consumer Fraud Division
P.O. Box 740256
Atlanta, GA 30374
800-525-6285
securitymonitoring@equifax.com

Experian
Experian Security Assistance
P.O. Box 72
Allen, TX 75013
888-397-3742
businessrecordsvictimassistance@experian.com

TransUnion
Consumer Relations & Fraud
Victim Assistance
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
800-372-8391
databreach@Transunion.com

- Remove your name from mailing lists of pre-approved offers of credit for approximately six months.
- If you aren't already doing so, please pay close attention to all bills and credit-card charges you receive for items you did not contract for or purchase. Review all of your bank account statements frequently for checks, purchases or deductions not made by you. Note that even if you do not find suspicious activity initially, you should continue to check this information periodically since identity thieves sometimes hold on to stolen personal information before using it.
- The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") offers consumer assistance and educational materials relating to identity theft, privacy issues, and how to avoid identity theft. You may also obtain information about fraud alerts and security freezes from the consumer reporting agencies, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. If you detect any incident of identity theft or fraud, promptly report the incident to your local law enforcement authorities, your state Attorney General, and/or the Federal Trade Commission. You can learn more about how to protect yourself from becoming an identity theft victim (including how to place a fraud alert or security freeze) by contacting the FTC at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or www.ftc.gov/idtheft. The mailing address for the FTC is: Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580.