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<<FIRST_NAME>> <<MIDDLE_NAME>> <<LAST_NAME>> <<SUFFIX>>
<<ADDRESS_1>>
<<ADDRESS_2>>
<<CITY>>, <<STATE_PROVINCE>> <<POSTAL_CODE>>
<<COUNTRY>>
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<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

Dear <<first name>> <<last name>>,

Gorove Slade Associates, Inc. is writing to make you aware of a data security incident that could have involved your name, Social Security number, bank account number provided for direct deposit, and tax forms (such as W-2 or 1095). This letter explains some steps you may consider taking.

We remind you that it is always a good idea to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing account statements and credit reports for unauthorized activity. We have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for two years. The identity monitoring services we are making available include Credit Monitoring, \$1 Million Identity Fraud Loss Reimbursement, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration. For more information on Kroll identity monitoring, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership, please visit the website below and see the pages that follow this letter.

Visit <a href="https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com">https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com</a> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<br/>b2b text 6 (ActivationDeadline)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: << Membership Number (S N)>>

As an added precaution, we encourage you to enroll in the IRS Identity Protection PIN ("IP PIN") program. Once you enroll, the IRS will issue you a unique PIN that helps prevent anyone from using your Social Security number to file a fraudulent tax return in the future. Please visit IRS.gov/IPPIN to get your IP PIN. Please also review the enclosed *Additional Steps You Can Take*, which contains information about what you can do to safeguard against possible misuse of your information.

We apologize for any concern or inconvenience this incident may cause. We have taken, and will continue to take, steps to enhance the security of our email environment. If you have any questions about this incident, please call (866) 559-4159, Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern, excluding some major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

Gorove Slade Associates, Inc.



#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

## **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring**

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft. To receive credit services, you must be over the age of 18 and have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.

## \$1 Million Identity Fraud Loss Reimbursement

Reimburses you for out-of-pocket expenses totaling up to \$1 million in covered legal costs and expenses for any one stolen identity event. All coverage is subject to the conditions and exclusions in the policy.

#### **Fraud Consultation**

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

# **Identity Theft Restoration**

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

## ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be 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 <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a> or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- Equifax, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-888-378-4329
- Experian, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

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.identitytheft.gov

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of a police report. You also have the right to request a security freeze, as described below. You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General*, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, <a href="https://www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html">www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html</a>

### Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

**Fraud Alerts:** There are two types of general 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 one year. 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.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

*Credit or Security Freezes:* You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That is because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they cannot see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? 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:

- Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com
- Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.com

You will need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with 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.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.