

**Wear, Howell, Strickland, Quinn and Law, CPAs**

Return Mail Processing Center

P.O. Box 989728

West Sacramento, CA 95798-9728

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

<<Address1>>

<<Address2>>

<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

<<Country>>

October 6, 2025

Subject: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

The purpose of this communication is to notify you of a data security incident experienced by Wear, Howell, Strickland, Quinn and Law, CPAs ("Wear Howell") which may have affected your personal information. Wear Howell takes the privacy and security of all information in our possession very seriously. That is why we are notifying you of the event and providing you with resources to help protect your information. We encourage you to read this letter carefully and follow the steps outlined below.

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy.

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. A security freeze prohibits a consumer 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.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must send a written request to **each** of the three major consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze: P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, 1-800-685-1111, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

Experian Security Freeze: P.O. Box 9701, Allen, TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742, [www.experian.com/freeze/center.html](http://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html)

TransUnion Security Freeze: P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA, 19016, 1-888-909-8872, [freeze.transunion.com](http://freeze.transunion.com)

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name and any suffixes;
2. Social Security Number;
3. Date of birth;
4. If you have moved in the past five years, 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.); and
7. 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 consumer reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. 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.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a request to the consumer reporting agencies and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security Number) and the PIN 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 or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The consumer reporting agencies have three (3) business days 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 send a request to each of the three consumer reporting agencies and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security Number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The consumer reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze. No fee is required to be paid to any of the consumer reporting agencies to place, lift or remove a security freeze.

In order to determine whether any unauthorized credit was obtained with your information, you may obtain a copy of your credit report at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or 1-877-322-8228. You may also request information on how to place a fraud alert by contacting any of the above consumer reporting agencies. A fraud alert is intended to alert you if someone attempts to obtain credit in your name without your consent. It is recommended that you remain vigilant for any incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and your credit report for unauthorized activity. You may also contact the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”) to learn more about how to prevent identity theft:

FTC, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580,  
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/features/identity-theft>, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

To help relieve concerns and to help protect your identity following this incident, Wear Howell is offering you 24 months of complimentary credit monitoring and identity monitoring services through IDX, the data breach and recovery services expert. Your services include credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

To enroll, please go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and use the Enrollment Code <<ENROLLMENT>> or call (833) 831-8179. The deadline to enroll in these services is **January 6, 2026**.

If you have any questions or need assistance, IDX representatives are available for 90 days from the date of this letter to assist you between 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Central Time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. IDX call center representatives are fully versed on this incident and can answer any questions that you may have.

Please accept our sincere apologies and know that we deeply regret any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Wear, Howell, Strickland, Quinn & Law, CPAs  
1323 Stratford Road SE  
Decatur, AL 35601