

14656

February 19, 2019

Patient Name  
Patient Address

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

We are writing to notify you about unauthorized access of your personal information, specifically your social security number combined with your name, date of birth and contact information. For purposes of this notice, the access occurred on January 28, 2019. The incident occurred when a staff member of Bristol Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine PC had left paper authorizations you filled out in a locked storage case that was stolen out of the trunk of her motor vehicle. The staff member was not supposed to leave the locked storage box in her trunk for any amount of time and was terminated when the event came to light. We have since changed our practice to eliminate transporting these paper forms so this can not happen again. Our investigation determined you are one of a small number of patients who had completed forms with your social security number filled in. It also included basic demographic information such as date of birth, address, and contact telephone numbers. We are providing you with a full copy of the papers that were stolen for full transparency.

We apologize that this happened. We do take you privacy very seriously, and would like to extend the offer of a one year of credit monitoring to prevent identity theft at no cost to you. Please contact our office manager, Wendy Mulligan at (508) 824-7282 if you would like to move forward with this service.

We are required under Massachusetts Law to provide you with the following general information regarding identity theft:

“Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. The matter was reported to the Westport Police Department on January 28, 2019. the incident number is 19-47-OF. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

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

If you have been a victim of identity theft, and you provide the credit reporting agency with a valid police report, it cannot charge you to place, lift or remove a security freeze. In all other cases, a credit reporting agency may charge you up to \$5.00 each to place, temporarily lift, or permanently remove a security freeze.

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 ([www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)); Experian ([www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)); and TransUnion ([www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)) by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax Security Freeze  
P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348

Experian Security Freeze  
P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013

Trans Union Security Freeze  
Fraud Victim Assistance Department  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022-2000

In order 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 (5) 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 either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;
8. If you are not a victim of identity theft, include payment by check, money order, or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover only). Do not send cash through the mail.

The credit 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 written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail 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 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 credit 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 written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail 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 three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.”

If you should have any further questions, please contact our office and speak with me personally.

Sincerely,

Wendy J. Mulligan  
Office Manager