

Return Mail Processing Center P.O. Box 6336 Portland, OR 97228-6336 15187

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Dear << Name 1>>:

SterlingRisk recognizes the importance of protecting the privacy of personal information provided to us. We are writing to inform you that we recently identified and addressed a security incident that may have involved your <<Data Elements>>.

We wanted to let you know this happened and assure you we take it very seriously. We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your financial account statements for any unauthorized activity. For more information on additional steps you can take to protect yourself, please see the pages that follow this letter.

We apologize for any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. To help prevent something like this from happening in the future, we are implementing additional security enhancements and providing additional education and training to our employees. If you have any questions about this matter, please call 855-424-1297, Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Sincerely,

John S. Beres

**Executive Vice President** 

## MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

We remind you to remain 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 www.annualcreditreport.com or call-toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

*Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742 *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800 *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111

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.ftc.gov/idtheft

Contact information for the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General is as follows:

Office of the Attorney General, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, 1-617-727-8400, www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html

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.

Note that pursuant to Massachusetts law, you have the right to file and obtain a copy of any police report.

There are two types of 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 at least 90 days. 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. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

You may also request a security freeze. A security freeze prohibits a credit reporting agency from releasing any information from your credit report without written authorization. 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.

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:

Experian Security Freeze, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

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

Your full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., II, III, etc.)

Social Security number

- Date of birth
- If you have moved in the past five years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill

- A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.)
- If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft

The credit reporting agencies have one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to place a security freeze on your credit report. The credit bureaus must also send written confirmation to you within five 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, or to lift a security freeze for a specified period of time, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to the credit reporting agencies 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 identity 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 one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must submit a request through a toll-free telephone number, a secure electronic means maintained by a credit reporting agency, or by sending a written request via regular, certified, or overnight mail to each of the three credit bureaus 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 one business day after receiving your request by toll-free telephone or secure electronic means, or three business days after receiving your request by mail, to remove the security freeze.