

16309



<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<FirstName>> <<MiddleName>> <<LastName>> <<NameSuffix>>  
<<Address1>>  
<<Address2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

Dear <<FirstName>> <<MiddleName>> <<LastName>> <<NameSuffix>>,

At Sharma Wasson & Associates, Inc. ("SWA"), we recognize the importance of protecting the privacy and security of our clients' information. We are writing to inform you of an incident that may have involved some of your personal information, including your <<ClientDef1(ImpactedData)>>. This notification explains the measures we have taken in response and some additional steps you may consider taking.

We encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements for any unauthorized activity. As a precaution, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring at no cost to you for two years. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people whose confidential data may have been compromised. Your identity monitoring services include credit monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <<IDMonitoringURL>> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<Date>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Member ID>>

Please see the pages that follow this notice for further information about these services and additional steps you may take to better protect your information.

Your confidence and trust are important to us, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. SWA is continuously making improvements to our existing security protocols and educating our staff for awareness on these types of incidents. To further protect personal information, we also are taking steps to enhance our existing security protocols.

If you have any questions, please call 1-???-???-???? Monday to Friday between 9:00 am and 6:30 pm EDT.

Sincerely,

*Ajai Sharma*

Ajai Sharma, EA

## **ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE**

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](http://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](http://www.experian.com), 1-888-397-3742

**TransUnion**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com), 1-800-916-8800

**Equifax**, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, [www.equifax.com](http://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](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft)

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, [www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html](http://www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html)

Note that pursuant to 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.

**Fraud Alerts:** 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 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. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by contacting any of the three national credit reporting agencies.

**Credit Freezes:** You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, so that no new credit can be opened in your name without the use of a PIN that is issued to you when you initiate a freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential credit grantors from accessing your credit report without your consent. If you place a security freeze, potential creditors and other third parties will not be able to get access to your credit report unless you temporarily lift the freeze. Therefore, using a security freeze may delay your ability to obtain credit.

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](http://www.experian.com)
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, [www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, [www.equifax.com](http://www.equifax.com)

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 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 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 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 hour 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 hour 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.



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## TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You've been provided with access to the following services<sup>1</sup> from Kroll:

### Triple Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data at any of the three national credit bureaus—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 can help you determine if it's an indicator of identity theft.

### 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 can dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

<sup>1</sup> Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge. 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.