

17619

The Vertical Group



To Enroll, Please Call:  
1-800-939-4170  
Or Visit:  
<https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect>  
Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

C/O ID Experts  
10300 SW Greenburg Rd. Suite 570  
Portland, OR 97223

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>  
<<Address1>> <<Address2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

September 3, 2020

**NOTICE OF DATA BREACH**

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>,

We are contacting you regarding a security incident which may have involved some of your information with The Vertical Group. We take the privacy and security of your personal information seriously and for this reason want you to understand what we are doing to address this issue and what steps you can take to protect yourself.

**What You Can Do**

Consumers should always remain vigilant in monitoring account statements and transactions for incidents of fraud and identity theft, and promptly report such incidents. The enclosed "Reference Guide" includes additional information on general steps you can take to monitor and protect your personal information.

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 of it.

To help protect your identity, we are offering identity theft protection services through ID Experts®, the data breach and recovery services expert, to provide you with MyIDCare™. MyIDCare services include: 24 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed ID theft recovery services. With this protection, MyIDCare will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

We encourage you to contact ID Experts with any questions and to enroll in free MyIDCare services by following the steps below:

- 1. Enrollment.** Go to <https://app.myidcare.com/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter. You can also call MyIDCare at 1-800-939-4170 for assistance with enrollment. MyIDCare experts are available Monday through Friday from 6 am - 6 pm Pacific Time.
- 2. Activate the credit monitoring** provided as part of your MyIDCare membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, MyIDCare will be able to assist you.
- 3. Additional Guidance.** Contact MyIDCare at 1-800-939-4170 to speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect your credit identity.

Please note the deadline to enroll is **December 3, 2020**. Also, you will need to reference the enrollment code at the top of this letter when calling or enrolling online, so please do not discard this letter.

**For More Information**

We take the protection of your personal information seriously and are taking steps to prevent a similar occurrence. If you want to learn more about the steps you can take to protect against identity theft or fraud, please review the enclosed "Reference Guide" materials. If you have any questions about this security incident, please call (908) 277-3737.

Sincerely,

The Vertical Group

## Reference Guide

### Order Your Free Credit Report

To order your free annual credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), call toll-free at (877) 322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission's ("FTC") website at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) and mail it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. The three credit bureaus provide free annual credit reports only through the website, toll-free number or request form.

Upon receiving your credit report, review it carefully. Errors may be a warning sign of possible identity theft. Here are a few tips of what to look for:

- Look for accounts you did not open.
- Look in the "inquiries" section for names of creditors from whom you have not requested credit. Some companies bill under names other than their store or commercial names; the credit bureau will be able to tell if this is the case.
- Look in the "personal information" section for any inaccuracies in information (such as home address and Social Security Number).

If you see anything you do not understand, call the credit bureau at the telephone number on the report. You should notify the credit bureaus of any inaccuracies in your report, whether due to error or fraud, as soon as possible so the information can be investigated and, if found to be in error, corrected. If there are accounts or charges you did not authorize, immediately notify the appropriate credit bureau by telephone and in writing. Information that cannot be explained should also be reported to your local police or sheriff's office because it may signal criminal activity.

### Contact the U.S. Federal Trade Commission

If you detect any unauthorized transactions in any of your financial accounts, promptly notify the appropriate payment card company or financial institution. If you detect any incidence of identity theft or fraud, promptly report the matter to your local law enforcement authorities, state Attorney General and the FTC.

You can contact the FTC to learn more about how to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft by using the contact information below:

Federal Trade Commission  
Consumer Response Center  
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20580  
1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)  
[www.ftc.gov/idtheft/](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft/)

### Place a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File

To protect yourself from possible identity theft, consider placing a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert helps protect against the possibility of an identity thief opening new credit accounts in your name. When a credit grantor checks the credit history of someone applying for credit, the credit grantor gets a notice that the applicant may be the victim of identity theft. The alert notifies the credit grantor to take steps to verify the identity of the applicant. You can place a fraud alert on your credit report by calling any one of the toll-free fraud numbers provided below. You will reach an automated telephone system that allows flagging of your file with a fraud alert at all three credit bureaus.

Equifax Fraud Reporting  
1-800-525-6285  
P.O. Box 105069  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069  
[www.alerts.equifax.com](http://www.alerts.equifax.com)

Experian Fraud Reporting  
1-888-397-3742  
P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
[www.experian.com](http://www.experian.com)

TransUnion Fraud Reporting  
1-888-909-8872  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022-2000  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

## Security Freezes

You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. 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 request you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing or other services. Under federal law, you cannot be charged to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.

You must place your request for a freeze with 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)). To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may send a written request by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below. You may also place a security freeze through each of the consumer reporting agencies' websites or over the phone, using the contact information below:

Equifax Security Freeze	Experian Security Freeze	TransUnion Security Freeze
1-800-349-9960	1-888-397-3742	1-888-909-8872
P.O. Box 105788	P.O. Box 9554	P.O. Box 2000
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016
<a href="https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/">https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/</a>	<a href="https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html">https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html</a>	<a href="https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze">https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze</a>

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide some or all of the following information to the credit reporting agency, depending on whether you do so online, by phone, or by mail:

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, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as current utility bill, telephone bill, rental agreement, or deed;
6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
8. 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 credit reporting agencies have one (1) to three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report, based upon the method of your request. 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. It is important to maintain this PIN/password in a secure place, as you will need it to lift or remove the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (including 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. You may also temporarily lift a security freeze for a specified period of time rather than for a specific entity or individual, using the same contact information above. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for request made by mail) 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 make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide 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 between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for requests made by mail) after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.