



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY



The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain on behalf of our donors is of the utmost importance to Children's Home Society of Washington ("CHSW"). We are writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident at a third-party service provider we use for our constituent records, which may have involved some of the information that you provided to CHSW.

We recently learned that a limited amount of your personal information may have been disclosed to an unauthorized individuals following an incident at a third party vendor. This information may have included

Your Social Security number was not

exposed, as it was encrypted.

According to the third-party vendor, there is no evidence to believe that any data will be misused, disseminated, or otherwise made publicly available. The third-party vendor indicates that it has hired a third-party team of experts, including a team of forensics accountants, to continue monitoring for any such activity. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware of the incident. This letter provides precautionary measures that you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Because your checking account number was impacted, you may want to contact your financial institution to discuss ways in which you can best protect your account, including possibly changing your account number or flagging your account. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis and report any suspicious activity to the proper authorities.

We remain fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. Our third party vendor has assured us that they closed the vulnerability that allowed the incident and that they are enhancing their security controls and conducting ongoing efforts against incidents like this in the future. We continually evaluate and modify our practices, and those of our third party service providers, to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

For questions	regarding this i	ncident, pleas	e contact		
Sincerely,		•			

#### - OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION -

## 1. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

You may place an initial one (1) year "fraud alert" on your credit files, at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any <u>one</u> of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

Equifax
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
www.equifax.com
1-800-525-6285

Experian
P.O. Box 2002
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com
1-888-397-3742

TransUnion LLC P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016 www.transunion.com 1-800-680-7289

## 2. Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a "security freeze" be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

Equifax Security Freeze
PO Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
https://www.freeze.equifax.com
1-800-349-9960

Experian Security Freeze PO Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 http://experian.com/freeze 1-888-397-3742 TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
<a href="http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze">http://www.transunion.com/securityfreeze</a>
1-888-909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, you'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name, or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the city in which you currently reside.

## 3. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from <u>each</u> of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call 1-877-322-8228 or request your free credit reports online at **www.annualcreditreport.com**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

## 4. Additional Helpful Resources.

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police {9061732;}

report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at www.ftc.gov/idtheft, by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC's Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

## 5. Obtaining a Police Report.

Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain a police report 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.