# 2024-173



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	RE:				
Dear					

We are writing to inform you of a data security incident at The Wladis Law Firm ("Wladis") involving some of your information. As such, we wanted to provide you with information about the incident and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

## What Happened?

On or about September 19, 2023, Wladis experienced a network security incident that affected some operations.

## What We Are Doing

Upon experiencing the security event, we partnered with cybersecurity experts and conducted a thorough investigation to understand the nature and scope of the event. We continue to evaluate and modify our practices and security controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

## What Information Was Involved?

After an extensive forensic investigation and manual document review, on or about December 20, 2023 we discovered that one or more files potentially accessed by an unauthorized party around September 14, 2023, included your full name and

## What You Can Do

We have no evidence that any personal information has been or will be used for identity theft or financial fraud as a direct result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we want to make you aware. This letter provides precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and Security Freeze on your credit files, and obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

## **For More Information**

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. We are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information. For more information, contact our dedicated call center with any questions at Representatives are available

Sincerely,

**The Wladis Law Firm** 6312 Fly Rd East Syracuse, NY 13057

# - OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION -

## 1. <u>Placing a Fraud Alert.</u>

You can 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 30348-5069 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-reportservices/credit-fraud-alerts/ (800) 525-6285

Experian P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 https://www.experian.com/fraud/center. html (888) 397-3742

TransUnion Fraud Victim Assistance Department P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000 <u>https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts</u> (800) 680-7289

## 2. <u>Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.</u>

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 cost. 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 sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three nationwide credit reporting companies. To find out more on how to place a security freeze, you can use the following contact information:

Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-reportservices/credit-freeze/ (888)-298-0045

*Experian Security Freeze* P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 <u>http://experian.com/freeze</u> (888) 397-3742 TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze (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 you do place a security freeze prior to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

## 3. <u>Obtaining a Free Credit Report.</u>

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. <u>Additional Helpful Resources</u>.

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 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.

**Maryland Residents**: You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, <u>www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov</u>, Telephone: 888-743-0023.

**New York Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General's Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <u>https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft;</u> Telephone: 800-771-7755.

**Washington D.C. Residents**: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 400 6th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, <u>https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection</u>, Telephone: 202-442-9828.