

# 2024-280

## CIPRIANI & WERNER

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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February 12, 2024

Office of Attorney General  
Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**RE: Data Breach Notification**

To Whom It May Concern:

We serve as counsel for Dawson James Securities, Inc. ("Dawson James") located at 101 N. Federal Highway, Suite 600, Boca Raton, Florida 33432. Dawson James writes to provide notice of a recent data breach. By providing this notice, Dawson James does not waive any rights or defenses under Massachusetts law including, but not limited to, the breach notification statute.

On June 30, 2023, Dawson James experienced a network disruption and immediately began an investigation, which included working with third-party specialists. The investigation determined that certain information stored on Dawson James' network was accessed by an unauthorized party between June 29, 2023 and June 30, 2023. Therefore, Dawson James conducted a comprehensive review of the information potentially impacted. On December 8, 2023, Dawson James completed its review. The review of potentially impacted data determined the data included names in combination with one or more of the following: financial account information, Social Security number, driver's license/state ID number, and passport number. On January 12, 2024, Dawson James received results from a check of a National Change of Address registry and confirmed this incident potentially affected 64 Massachusetts residents.

In response to this incident, Dawson James conducted an investigation, notified the FBI, changed network passwords, and reviewed its policies and procedures related to data protection. Dawson James provided notice to the potentially impacted individuals on January 17, 2024, via U.S. mail. A copy of the notice is attached as **Exhibit A**. In an abundance of caution, Dawson James is offering the potentially impacted individuals complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services for twenty-four months.

Very truly yours,

CIPRIANI & WERNER, P.C.

By:



Daniel J. Haier, Esq.

# EXHIBIT A

Dawson James Securities, Inc  
c/o Cyberscout  
PO Box 1286  
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998



NAME  
ADDRESS  
CITY, STATE ZIPCODE

January 17, 2024

Dear NAME:

Dawson James Securities, Inc. writes to notify you of a recent incident that may impact the privacy of certain information provided to us. We take this incident seriously and are providing you information about the steps you can take to protect your information. The type of information identified in our review included your name in combination with the following: [DATA ELEMENTS].

In response to this incident, we changed account passwords and reviewed our policies and procedures related to data protection. We also took steps to ensure the data described above would not be misused, and we have no reason to believe there has been or will be any fraud associated with this incident. However, in an abundance of caution, we are providing you access to complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services. Instructions about how to enroll in these services and additional resources available to you are included in the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Information*.

We understand you may have questions about this incident. You may contact our dedicated assistance line at 1-833-489-5623 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm ET Monday through Friday (excluding major U.S. holidays), or write to us at 101 N. Federal Highway, Suite 600, Boca Raton, Florida 33432.

We sincerely regret any concern this incident may cause you. The privacy and security of information is important to us, and we will continue to take steps to protect information in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca'.

Rebecca Belicek, CCO  
Dawson James Securities, Inc.

## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOUR INFORMATION

### Enroll in Credit Monitoring/Identity Protection

In response to the incident, we are providing you with access to credit monitoring and identity protection services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for 24 months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. This notification is sent to you the same day that the change or update takes place with the bureau. Finally, we are providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions that you might have or in event that you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by Cyberscout through Identity Force, a TransUnion company.

To enroll in credit monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/dawsonjames> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [CODE]. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18 years of age. Please note that when signing up for monitoring services, you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

### Monitor Your Accounts

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing your credit reports/account statements for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Under U.S. law, you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus, TransUnion, Experian, and Equifax. To order your free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call 1-877-322-8228. Once you receive your credit report, review it for discrepancies and identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you did not authorize. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting bureau.

You have the right to place an initial or extended fraud alert on a credit file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a one-year alert that is placed on a consumer's credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer's identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any of the three credit reporting bureaus listed below.

As an alternative to a fraud alert, you have the right to place a credit freeze on a credit report, which will prohibit a credit bureau from releasing information in the credit report without your express authorization. The credit freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, you should be aware that using a credit freeze may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a credit freeze on your credit report. To request a credit freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

1. Full name (including middle initial as well as Jr., Sr., III, etc.);
2. Social Security number;
3. Date of birth;
4. Address for the prior two to five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (e.g., state driver's license or identification card); and

7. A copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft, if you are a victim of identity theft.

Should you wish to place a fraud alert or credit freeze, please contact the three major credit reporting bureaus listed below:

<b>TransUnion</b> 1-800-680-7289 <a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>  <b>TransUnion Fraud Alert</b> P.O. Box 2000 Chester, PA 19016-2000  <b>TransUnion Credit Freeze</b> P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094	<b>Experian</b> 1-888-397-3742 <a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>  <b>Experian Fraud Alert</b> P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013  <b>Experian Credit Freeze</b> P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013	<b>Equifax</b> 1-888-298-0045 <a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>  <b>Equifax Fraud Alert</b> P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348-5069  <b>Equifax Credit Freeze</b> P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
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### Additional Information

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, credit freezes, and the steps you can take to protect your personal information by contacting the credit reporting bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), or your state Attorney General. The FTC also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. The FTC may be reached at 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. 20580; [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov); 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement, your state Attorney General, and the FTC. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.