

Return Mail Processing Vendor 25 Route 111, P.O. Box 1048 Smithtown, NY 11787

<<Name 1>> <<Name 2>> <<Address 1>> <<Address 2>> <<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

Dear <</Name 1>>:

<<Date>>

Evans and Woulfe Accounting, Inc. is writing to inform you about a data security incident that may have involved some of your information, including your name, Social Security number and financial account number(s) where your tax refund is directed if deposited directly by the IRS. This notice explains the measures we have taken and some steps you can take in response.

We wanted to notify you of this incident and to assure you that we take it seriously. We are working with the IRS to ensure that any false returns filed for Evans & Woulfe clients will not be processed and we are also preparing necessary tax forms to be filed with tax returns for clients who have had a false return filed in their names. We encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your financial account statements and credit report for unauthorized activity. We are offering you a free two-year membership to Equifax Complete<sup>TM</sup> Premier credit and identity monitoring. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection support. Enrolling in these services will not hurt your credit score. For more information on steps you can take to protect your information, including instructions on how to activate your free credit and identity monitoring through Equifax Complete<sup>TM</sup> Premier, please see the pages that follow this letter.

We regret any concern this incident may cause you. To help prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future, we are continuing to enhance our security processes. If you have any questions about this incident, please call 844-678-1756, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central Time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

Show to Voulfe

Thomas Woulfe, CPA Evans and Woulfe Accounting, Inc.



• Equifax Complete<sup>™</sup> Premier \*Note: You must be over age 18 with a credit file to take advantage of the product

## Key Features

- Annual access to your 3-bureau credit report and VantageScore<sup>1</sup> credit scores
- Daily access to your Equifax credit report and 1-bureau VantageScore credit score
- 3-bureau credit monitoring<sup>2</sup> with email notifications of key changes to your credit reports
- WebScan notifications<sup>3</sup> when your personal information, such as Social Security Number, credit/debit card or bank account numbers are found on fraudulent Internet trading sites
- Automatic fraud alerts<sup>4</sup>, which encourages potential lenders to take extra steps to verify your identity before extending credit, plus blocked inquiry alerts and Equifax credit report lock<sup>5</sup>
- Identity Restoration to help restore your identity should you become a victim of identity theft, and a dedicated Identity Restoration Specialist to work on your behalf
- Up to \$1,000,000 of identity theft insurance coverage for certain out of pocket expenses resulting from identity theft<sup>6</sup>.
- Lost Wallet Assistance if your wallet is lost or stolen, and one-stop assistance in canceling and reissuing credit, debit and personal identification cards.

## **Enrollment Instructions**

## Go to *www.equifax.com/activate*

Enter your unique Activation Code of *<ACTIVATION CODE>* then click "Submit" and follow these 4 steps:

## 1. Register:

Complete the form with your contact information and click "Continue". If you already have a myEquifax account, click the 'Sign in here' link under the "Let's get started" header. Once you have successfully signed in, you will skip to the Checkout Page in Step 4

## 2. <u>Create Account</u>:

Enter your email address, create a password, and accept the terms of use.

#### 3. Verify Identity:

To enroll in your product, we will ask you to complete our identity verification process.

#### 4. <u>Checkout:</u>

Upon successful verification of your identity, you will see the Checkout Page.

Click 'Sign Me Up' to finish enrolling.

# You're done!

The confirmation page shows your completed enrollment. Click "View My Product" to access the product features.

<sup>1</sup>The credit scores provided are based on the VantageScore® 3.0 model. For three-bureau VantageScore credit scores, data from Equifax®, Experian®, and TransUnion® are used respectively. Any one-bureau VantageScore uses Equifax data. Third parties use many different types of credit scores and are likely to use a different type of credit score to assess your creditworthiness. <sup>2</sup>Credit monitoring from Experian and TransUnion will take several days to begin. <sup>3</sup>WebScan searches for your Social Security Number, up to 5 passport numbers, up to 6 bank account numbers, up to 6 credit/debit card numbers, up to 6 email addresses, and up to 10 medical ID numbers. WebScan searches thousands of Internet sites where consumers' personal information is suspected of being bought and sold, and regularly adds new sites to the list of those it searches. However, the Internet addresses of these suspected Internet trading sites are not published and frequently change, so there is no guarantee that we are able to locate and search every possible Internet site where consumers' personal information is at risk of being traded. <sup>4</sup>The Automatic Fraud Alert feature is made available to consumers by Equifax Information Services LLC and fulfilled on its behalf by Equifax Consumer Services LLC. 5Locking your Equifax credit report will prevent access to it by certain third parties. Locking your Equifax credit report will not prevent access to your credit report at any other credit reporting agency. Entities that may still have access to your Equifax credit report include: companies like Equifax Global Consumer Solutions, which provide you with access to your credit report or credit score, or monitor your credit report as part of a subscription or similar service; companies that provide you with a copy of your credit report or credit score, upon your request; federal, state and local government agencies and courts in certain circumstances; companies using the information in connection with the underwriting of insurance, or for employment, tenant or background screening purposes; companies that have a current account or relationship with you, and collection agencies acting on behalf of those whom you owe; companies that authenticate a consumer's identity for purposes other than granting credit, or for investigating or preventing actual or potential fraud; and companies that wish to make pre-approved offers of credit or insurance to you. To opt out of such pre-approved offers, visit <sup>6</sup>The Identity Theft Insurance benefit is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant www.optoutprescreen.co company, under group or blanket policies issued to Equifax, Inc., or its respective affiliates for the benefit of its Members. Please refer to the actual policies for terms, conditions, and exclusions of coverage. Coverage may not be available in all jurisdictions.

# ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be 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 <u>www.annualcreditreport.com</u> or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- Equifax, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, <u>www.equifax.com</u>, 1-888-378-4329
- Experian, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, <u>www.experian.com</u>, 1-888-397-3742
- TransUnion, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

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), <u>www.identitytheft.gov</u>

Under 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, as described above. 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, <u>www.mass.gov/ago/contact-us.html</u>

# Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

*Fraud Alerts:* There are two types of general 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 one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

*Credit or Security Freezes:* You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

*How do I place a freeze on my credit reports?* 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, <u>www.experian.com</u>
- TransUnion Security Freeze, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.com
- Equifax Security Freeze, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, <u>www.equifax.com</u>

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 bureau will provide you with 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.

*How do I lift a freeze*? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.