

21708

Cronin, Hanley & VanZile, LLC  
Return to IDX  
10300 SW Greenburg Rd., Suite 570  
Portland, OR 97223



To Enroll, Please Visit:  
<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>  
Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>  
<<Address 1>> <<Address 2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

July 6, 2021

### Notice of Data Security Incident

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

We wanted to let you know about a data security incident experienced by Cronin, Hanley & VanZile, LLC (“CHV”) that we are in the process of investigating involving the potential compromise of information stored in our systems. As you know, we store information necessary to file your taxes in our tax system. This includes your name, address, Social Security number, and bank account information if you provided it to us for use to pay a tax liability or receive a refund. We take the privacy and security of your information seriously, and sincerely apologize for any concern or inconvenience this may cause you.

We have arranged for you to receive identity theft protection services through IDX, the data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection 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, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised. We encourage you to enroll in free IDX identity protection services by going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> or calling 1-800-939-4170 and using the Enrollment Code provided above. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time. Please note the deadline to enroll is October 6, 2021.

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. 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 requests you make for new loans, credit mortgages, employment, housing or other services.

Placing a freeze on your credit report is now free for all United States citizens. To place a security freeze on your credit report, each of the three major consumer credit reporting agencies have a dedicated web page for security freezes and fraud alerts:

Equifax: <https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>

Experian: <https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>

TransUnion: <https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

You can also request a freeze by phone or by mail to 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)) by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below:

Equifax Security Freeze  
U.S. Consumer Services  
P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
(800) 349-9960

Experian Security Freeze  
P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
1 888 397 3742

TransUnion Security Freeze  
Fraud Victim Assistance  
Department  
P.O. Box 6790  
Fullerton, CA 92834  
888-909-8872

If a request is made online or by phone then the credit reporting agency must put the freeze in place no later than the next business day. In order to request a security freeze, you may need to provide the following information:

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 years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;

If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one (1) hour. If the request is made by mail, the credit reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report. 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.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must go to the website provided above, call the toll-free number, or send a written request to the credit reporting agencies by mail. You will need proper identification (name, address, date of birth and social security number). Depending on the method you use, a PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze may be required as well. You may also need to identify the entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available.

To remove the security freeze, you must go to the websites provided above, call the toll-free number, or send a written request to each of the three credit bureaus by mail. You will need proper identification (name, address, date of birth and social security number). Depending on the credit reporting agency and method you used to freeze your credit, a PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze may be required or requested.

#### **What are we doing:**

The security of our systems and your information is important to us, and we wanted you to know that prior to this incident we had invested significant resources in our network. Over the past couple years, we invested in new servers and technology to provide for additional security. We work with an external IT company that provides 24/7 monitoring of our servers and computers, use a secure mail service provider for correspondence, and use a secure portal that is directly connected with our tax software provider Intuit Lacerte. We have antivirus installed on all servers and computers, and train employees on recognizing and responding to cybersecurity threats.

Out of an abundance of caution, we have conducted a system wide password reset, implemented multi-factor authentication on all accounts, and obtained a new EFIN. We are currently working with the IRS to further protect our clients by opting into the Practitioner Relief Program, which enables CHV to notify the IRS in advance of a filing for verification purposes. Additionally, we will be working closely with the forensic investigators to identify security controls

to help tighten the security of our systems. We can assure you that if there is an issue with the security of our systems, we are committed to taking steps to prevent this type of thing from occurring again.

**For More Information.**

Please let us know if you receive a letter from the IRS. **The IRS will not contact you via phone.** If you have any questions or concerns, please call 1-800-939-4170 Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time. Your trust is our top priority, and we deeply regret any inconvenience or concern that this matter may cause you.

Sincerely,

**Maryann Hanley & Cara VanZile  
Cronin, Hanley & VanZile, LLC**



## Recommended Steps to Help Protect Your Information

**1. Website and Enrollment.** Go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.

**2. Activate the credit monitoring** provided as part of your IDX identity protection 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, IDX will be able to assist you.

**3. Review your credit reports.** We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call (1-877-322-8228). You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify them immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of our ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop and reverse the damage quickly.

You should also know that you have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some kind of proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

**4. Place Fraud Alerts** with the three credit bureaus. If you choose to place a fraud alert, we recommend you do this after activating your credit monitoring. You can place a fraud alert at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. The contact information for all three bureaus is as follows:

### Credit Bureaus

Equifax Fraud Reporting  
1-866-349-5191  
P.O. Box 105069  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069  
[www.equifax.com](http://www.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  
1-800-680-7289  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19022-2000  
[www.transunion.com](http://www.transunion.com)

It is necessary to contact only ONE of these bureaus and use only ONE of these methods. As soon as one of the three bureaus confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place alerts on their records as well. You will receive confirmation letters in the mail and will then be able to order all three credit reports, free of charge, for your review. An initial fraud alert will last for one year.

**Please Note: No one is allowed to place a fraud alert on your credit report except you.**

**5. Security Freeze.** By placing a security freeze, someone who fraudulently acquires your personal identifying information will not be able to use that information to open new accounts or borrow money in your name. You will need

to contact the three national credit reporting bureaus listed above to place the freeze. Keep in mind that when you place the freeze, you will not be able to borrow money, obtain instant credit, or get a new credit card until you temporarily lift or permanently remove the freeze. There is no cost to freeze or unfreeze your credit files.

**6. You can obtain additional information** about the steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the following agencies. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them.

**California Residents:** Visit the California Office of Privacy Protection ([www.oag.ca.gov/privacy](http://www.oag.ca.gov/privacy)) for additional information on protection against identity theft.

**New York Residents:** the Attorney General may be contacted at: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; 1-800-771-7755; <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

**North Carolina Residents:** Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov), Telephone: 1-919-716-6400.

**All US Residents:** Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580, [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft), 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261.