



<<Return Address>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>>

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>> <<Address1>> <<Address2>> <<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>>

To Enroll, Please Visit:

https://response.idx.us/backnine

Or Call: **(833) 909-3934** 

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXX>>

August 13, 2021

Re: Notice of Data Breach

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

I am writing to inform you of a recent data security issue discovered by BackNine Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. ("BackNine") that may have impacted your personal information. BackNine is an insurance broker and financial services firm located in Westlake Village, California. BackNine sells life, long term care, and disability insurance as well as annuities. You may have worked with BackNine, or an agent you had worked with may have worked with BackNine, to apply for an insurance policy or an annuity offered by various carriers or you may have been listed as a beneficiary on an insurance policy or annuity application. Please read carefully as this letter contains background information about the issue, the type of information potentially involved, and steps that you can take to help protect your personal information, including enrolling in the complimentary identity protection services offered below.

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

You have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. A security freeze prohibits a consumer 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.

To place a security freeze on your credit report, you must contact each of the three major consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze	Experian Security Freeze	TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788	P.O. Box 9554	P.O. Box 2000
Atlanta, GA 30348	Allen, TX 75013	Chester, PA 19016
1-800-349-9960	1-888-397-3742	1-888-909-8872
www.equifax.com	www.experian.com/freeze/center.htm	www.transunion.com/credit-freeze
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In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Your full name and any suffixes;
- 2. Social Security number;
- 3. Date of birth;
- 4. If you have moved in the past five (5) years, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five (5) 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 (e.g. state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.); and
- 7. If you are a victim of identity theft, include a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft.

The consumer reporting agencies then 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 grant a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must call or send a written request to the consumer reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze as well as the identities of those entities or individuals you would like to receive your credit report or the specific period of time you want the credit report available. The consumer reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to lift the security freeze for those identified entities or individuals, or for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must send a written request to each of the three (3) consumer reporting agencies by mail and include proper identification (name, address, and Social Security number) and the PIN or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The consumer reporting agencies have three (3) business days after receiving your request to remove the security freeze. You cannot be charged a fee by the consumer reporting agencies to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.

In order to determine whether any unauthorized credit was obtained with your information, you may obtain a copy of your credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling (877) 322-8228. You may also request information on how to place a fraud alert by contacting any of the above consumer reporting agencies. A fraud alert is intended to alert you if someone attempts to obtain credit in your name without your consent. It is recommended that you remain vigilant for any incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and your credit report for unauthorized activity. You may also contact the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") to learn more about how to prevent identity theft:

FTC, Consumer Response Center 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington D.C. 20590 www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft 877-IDTHEFT (438-4338)

What We Are Doing. We are providing you information about steps you can take to help protect your personal information and offering free identity protection services for <<24 months>> through IDX. These services include credit monitoring,\* CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 identify theft insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity recovery services. To enroll, please go to <a href="https://response.idx.us/backnine">https://response.idx.us/backnine</a> or call (833) 909-3934 and use the Enrollment Code provided at the top of this letter. The deadline to enroll is November 13, 2021.

For More Information. If you have any questions regarding the incident or would like assistance with enrolling in the identity protection services offered to you through IDX, please call (833) 909-3934 between Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time.

BackNine is committed to protecting the security and privacy of its customers. We regret any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Reid Tattersall, Vice President

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BackNine Insurance and Financial Services, Inc.

<sup>\*</sup>To receive credit monitoring services, you must be over the age of 18, have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.



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August 13, 2021

Re: Notice of Data Breach

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

I am writing to inform you of a recent data security issue discovered by BackNine Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. ("BackNine") that may have impacted your personal information ("PI") and protected health information ("PHI"). Please read carefully as this letter contains background information about the issue, the type of information potentially involved, and steps that you can take to help protect your information, including enrolling in the complimentary identity protection services offered below.

What Happened. BackNine is an insurance broker and financial services firm located in Westlake Village, California. BackNine sells life, long term care, and disability insurance as well as annuities.

On July 12, 2021, BackNine learned of a coding error that caused certain insurance and annuity applications to be uploaded to a publicly accessible folder on its cloud storage system. Upon discovery, BackNine immediately secured the folder so that it was no longer publicly accessible. BackNine also audited the cloud storage system to confirm that the folder at issue was the only one affected and altered the misconfigured code to ensure that future applications would be uploaded to and stored in the intended, non-publicly accessible folders.

In addition, BackNine—with the assistance of outside data privacy and cybersecurity experts—conducted an investigation and worked to identify the individuals whose information was stored in the impacted cloud storage folder and the categories of information potentially involved for each such individual. On July 26, 2021, we determined that the impacted folder contained some of your PI and PHI. We then worked diligently to identify current address information required to provide notification of this incident.

We have no reason to believe that your information was accessed, acquired, or misused. Nevertheless, we are notifying you of this issue out of an abundance of caution so that you may take appropriate steps to help protect your PI and PHI.

What Information Was Involved. The impacted cloud storage folder contained the following information provided by you to BackNine in connection with your <<Role/Policy Type>>: <<data elements>>.

What We Are Doing. As soon as we learned of the issue, we took the measures referenced above. We are also implementing additional security measures to protect the information on our systems and to minimize the likelihood of a similar situation occurring in the future. Furthermore, we are providing you information about steps you can take to help protect your PI/PHI and offering free identity protection services for <<12 or 24 months>> through IDX.

What You Can Do. You can follow the recommendations included with this letter to protect your information. We also strongly encourage you to enroll in the complimentary identity protection services. These services include credit monitoring, \* CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 identify theft insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity recovery services. To enroll, please go to <a href="https://response.idx.us/backnine">https://response.idx.us/backnine</a> or call (833) 909-3934 and use the Enrollment Code provided at the top of this letter. The deadline to enroll is November 13, 2021.

For More Information. If you have any questions regarding the incident or would like assistance with enrolling in the identity protection services offered to you through IDX, please call (833) 909-3934 between Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Pacific Time.

<sup>\*</sup>To receive credit monitoring services, you must be over the age of 18, have established credit in the U.S., have a Social Security number in your name, and have a U.S. residential address associated with your credit file.

BackNine is committed to protecting the security and privacy of its customers. We regret any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you.

Sincerely,

Reid Tattersall

Reid Tattersall, Vice President BackNine Insurance and Financial Services, Inc.

## Steps You Can Take to Protect Your Personal Information

Review Your Account Statements and Notify Law Enforcement of Suspicious Activity: As a precautionary measure, we recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports closely. If you detect any suspicious activity on an account, you should promptly notify the financial institution or company with which the account is maintained. You also should promptly report any fraudulent activity or any suspected incidence of identity theft to proper law enforcement authorities, your state attorney general, and/or the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Copy of Credit Report: You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting agencies once every 12 months by visiting <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com/">http://www.annualcreditreport.com/</a>, calling toll-free 1-877-322-8228, or by completing an Annual Credit Report Request Form and mailing it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348. You also can contact one of the following three national credit reporting agencies:

Equifax P.O. Box 105851 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-800-525-6285 www.equifax.com Experian P.O. Box 9532 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com TransUnion P.O. Box 1000 Chester, PA 19016 1-800-916-8800 www.transunion.com

Fraud Alert: You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least one year. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. To place a fraud alert on your credit report, contact any of the three credit reporting agencies identified above. Additional information is available at <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com">http://www.annualcreditreport.com</a>.

Security Freeze: You have the right to put a security freeze on your credit file for up to one year at no cost. This will prevent new credit from being opened in your name without the use of a PIN number that is issued to you when you initiate the freeze. A security freeze is designed to prevent potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your consent. As a result, using a security freeze may interfere with or delay your ability to obtain credit. You must separately place a security freeze on your credit file with each credit reporting agency. In order to place a security freeze, you may be required to provide the consumer reporting agency with information that identifies you including your full name, Social Security number, date of birth, current and previous addresses, a copy of your state-issued identification card, and a recent utility bill, bank statement or insurance statement.

Additional Free Resources: You can obtain information from the consumer reporting agencies, the FTC, or from your respective state Attorney General about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft. You may report suspected identity theft to local law enforcement, including to the FTC or to the Attorney General in your state.

Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20580 consumer.ftc.gov, and www.ftc.gov/idtheft 1-877-438-4338

North Carolina Attorney General 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699 ncdoj.gov 1-877-566-7226 Maryland Attorney General 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202 oag.state.md.us 1-888-743-0023

Rhode Island Attorney General 150 South Main Street Providence, RI 02903 http://www.riag.ri.gov 1-401-274-4400 New York Attorney General Bureau of Internet and Technology Resources 28 Liberty Street New York, NY 10005 1-212-416-8433

Washington D.C. Attorney General 441 4th Street, NW Washington, DC 20001 oag.dc.gov 1-202-727-3400

You also have certain rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): These rights include to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; to have consumer reporting agencies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; as well as other rights. For more information about the FCRA, and your rights pursuant to the FCRA, please visit <a href="https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf">https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf</a>.