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SG
#28170

August 29, 2022

By U.S. Mail

Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation
501 Boylston St., Suite 5100
Boston, MA 02116
Attn: Undersecretary Edward A. Palleschi

NOTICE OF DATA BREACH

Dear Undersecretary Palleschi:

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 93H, we write on behalf of our client, Ellington Management Group, LLC ("Ellington"), located at 711 Third Avenue, Suite 501, New York, NY 10017. We write to notify you about a data security incident involving sixty-one (61) Massachusetts residents.

Between February 18 and 24, 2022, an unauthorized third party gained access to the email mailboxes of two current Ellington employees. Those employees would sometimes receive by email information about mortgages for sale or potential sale. In some instances such emails contained full names, social security numbers, driver's license numbers, electronic signatures, credit card numbers, dates of birth, bank or financial account numbers, and other personal information that individuals may have provided in connection with their mortgage loan in unencrypted format. The data breach was detected and ended on February 24, 2022. Ellington retained outside experts to perform an investigation. The investigation found no evidence of fraud or misuse of personal information or even that it was viewed by the unauthorized party.

The data security incident involves sixty-one (61) Massachusetts residents. On or about August 29, 2022, Ellington sent the enclosed notice to those residents via U.S. mail.

Since learning of the incident, Ellington has worked with a leading cybersecurity firm to assess its controls, confirm that they align with industry standards and close any other potential unauthorized access points. Ellington has a written information security policy and is in the process of updating it in light of the incident. Ellington also reported the incident to the FBI.

Ellington is offering potentially impacted Massachusetts residents 24 months of complimentary credit monitoring services through Experian IdentityWorks. The IdentityWorks service includes Experian credit reports and monitoring, \$1,000,000 identity theft insurance, and full service identity restoration. Persons can enroll in the service via the toll-free number or website address provided in the enclosed notice letter. Persons enrolling in the credit monitoring service are not asked or required to waive any right of private action as a condition of accepting the service.

Ellington is providing similar notification to the Office of Attorney General today via U.S. mail.
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

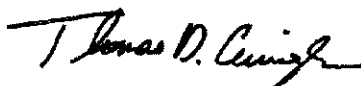


Thomas D. Cunningham
Partner, Sidley Austin LLP
Direct Dial: (312) 853-7594
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Enc.

Certification of Credit Monitoring Services

On behalf of Ellington Management Group, LLC, I hereby certify that credit monitoring services were provided to consumers in compliance with M.G.L. c. 93H, section 3A.



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Return Mail Processing
 PO Box 589
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August 29, 2022



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 ANYTOWN, ST 12345-6789



Notice of Security Incident

Dear Sample A. Sample:

Ellington Management Group, LLC (“Ellington,” “our,” or “we”) is writing to notify you that an unauthorized access of your personal information may have occurred on or about February 24, 2022. We have no evidence of fraud or misuse of your personal information or even that it was viewed. Nonetheless, our investigation and assessment could not rule out the possibility of misuse of personal information and so we are providing you this notice.

What Information Was Involved? Personal information that may have been available included names, social security numbers, driver’s license numbers, electronic signature, credit card numbers, dates of birth, bank or financial account numbers, and other information you may have provided in connection with your mortgage loan.

What We Are Doing. Upon identifying the potential issue, we immediately assessed, identified, and remediated the unauthorized system access. We have since worked with a leading cybersecurity firm to assess our controls, confirm that they align with industry standards and close any other potential unauthorized access points.

To help protect your identity, we are offering complimentary access to Experian IdentityWorksSM for 24 months.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information as a result of this incident and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent. If, after discussing your situation with an agent, it is determined that identity restoration support is needed, then an Experian Identity Restoration agent is available to work with you to investigate and resolve each incident of fraud that occurred from the date of the incident (including, as appropriate, helping you with contacting credit grantors to dispute charges and close accounts; assisting you in placing a freeze on your credit file with the three major credit bureaus; and assisting you with contacting government agencies to help restore your identity to its proper condition).

Please note that Identity Restoration is available to you for 24 months from the date of this letter and does not require any action on your part at this time. The Terms and Conditions for this offer are located at www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration.

While identity restoration assistance is immediately available to you, we also encourage you to activate the fraud detection tools available through Experian IdentityWorks as a complimentary 24 month membership. This product provides you with superior identity detection and resolution of identity theft. To start monitoring your personal information, please follow the steps below:

- Ensure that you **enroll by November 30, 2022** (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: www.experianidworks.com/credit
- Provide your **activation code: ABCDEFGHI**

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If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident, or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at (888) 397-0073 by **November 30, 2022**. Be prepared to provide engagement number **B059038** as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 24 MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is not required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks. You can contact Experian immediately regarding any fraud issues, and have access to the following features once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks:

- **Experian credit report at signup:** See what information is associated with your credit file. Daily credit reports are available for online members only.*
- **Credit Monitoring:** Actively monitors Experian file for indicators of fraud.
- **Identity Restoration:** Identity Restoration specialists are immediately available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.
- **Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE™:** You receive the same high-level of Identity Restoration support even after your Experian IdentityWorks membership has expired.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

What You Can Do. We recommend that you remain vigilant to the possibility of fraud by reviewing your financial account statements for any suspicious activity. If you identify any suspicious activity, you should immediately report it to your financial institution. You may also review some additional steps you can take to protect your information in the pages that follow this letter.

For More Information. We regret any inconvenience or concern this may cause. If you have any questions, please call (888) 397-0073, toll-free Monday through Friday from 8 am – 10 pm Central, or Saturday and Sunday from 10 am – 7 pm Central (excluding major U.S. holidays). Be prepared to provide your engagement number **B059038**.

Sincerely,



Daniel Margolis
General Counsel
Ellington Management Group, LLC

* Offline members will be eligible to call for additional reports quarterly after enrolling.

** The Identity Theft Insurance is underwritten and administered by American Bankers Insurance Company of Florida, an Assurant company. 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 TO PROTECT YOUR IDENTITY

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 www.annualcreditreport.com 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, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
Experian, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
TransUnion, PO Box 2000, 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), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

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 have already 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, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

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.



Ellington Management Group, LLC's address is 711 Third Avenue, Suite 501, New York, New York 10017, and its phone number is 203-698-1200.

Exercise Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA): You have certain legal rights under the FCRA. These include, among others, the right to know what is in your file; to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information; and to have credit reporting companies correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information. You can find more information about your rights under the FCRA online at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0096-fair-credit-reporting-act.pdf. The laws of your state may provide you with additional rights. Your state's attorney general or consumer protection department may be able to give you more information about your rights under state law.

Keep a record of your contacts: Start a file with copies of your credit reports, police reports, any correspondence, and copies of disputed bills. Keep a log of your conversations with creditors, law enforcement officials, credit reporting companies, and other relevant parties.

Additional information for residents of the following states:

Massachusetts residents are reminded that you have the right to obtain a police report and request a security freeze as described above. There is no charge to place a security freeze on your account; however, you may be required to provide the credit reporting agency with certain personal information (such as your name, Social Security Number, date of birth and address) and proper identification (such as a copy of a government issued ID card and a bill or statement) prior to its honoring your request.