

PHDCQM00209963



January 25, 2023

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION  
PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY**

Dear [REDACTED]:

The privacy of your personal information is of utmost importance to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI). We are writing to provide you with important information about an incident which involves the security of some of your personal and health information that was supplied to us. We want to provide you with information regarding the incident, and explain the services we are making available to help safeguard your information against potential identity fraud. We also are providing additional steps you can take to further protect your information.

*What Happened?*

On January 27, 2022, LSSI discovered its network had been affected by a ransomware attack.

*What We Are Doing.*

Upon learning of this issue, we contained the threat by disabling and isolating the affected systems, and immediately began a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we worked very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. We also notified law enforcement and appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies about the incident. After an extensive forensic investigation and comprehensive review of all the data impacted, on December 28, 2022, we discovered that certain personal information maintained on our systems was potentially accessed by an unauthorized party from December 31, 2021 to January 27, 2022. At that time, we began a process to notify the individuals potentially affected by this incident.

*What Information Was Involved?*

The potentially accessed information include your full name, medical record number, date of service, diagnosis or clinical information, doctor's name or practice type, health insurance information, , health insurance policy number and date of birth.

Please be assured, at this time, LSSI has no evidence that information involved in this incident has been used for identity theft or financial fraud.

*What You Can Do.*

We have taken all available measures to protect your information upon discovering this incident, including reviewing and revising our information security practices, and bolstering our existing security to reduce the chance of a future incident.

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To further protect your information, we are providing you access to Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score 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 specializing in fraud assistance and remediation services. This service is completely free to you, and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on identity theft prevention, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary 24 months - membership, please see the additional information provided in this letter.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and/or Security Freeze on any credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and monitoring your free credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

Please accept our apology that this incident occurred. We are committed to maintaining the privacy of your information and have taken many precautions to help safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of the personal information in our possession, and have taken steps to further protect unauthorized access to individual records.

*For More Information.*

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at [REDACTED]. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to help protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding holidays.

Sincerely,

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

– ADDITIONAL PRIVACY SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION –

**1. Enrolling in Complimentary 24 months - Credit Monitoring.**

To enroll in Credit Monitoring services at no charge, please log on to <https://secure.identityforce.com/benefit/Issi> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted please provide the following unique code to receive services: [REDACTED]. 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.



**2. Placing a Fraud Alert.**

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary 24 months credit monitoring services, we recommend that you place an initial 90-day “Fraud Alert” on your credit files (if one exists), at no charge. A fraud alert tells creditors to contact you personally before they open any new accounts. To place a fraud alert, call any one of the three major credit bureaus at the numbers listed below. As soon as one credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, they will notify the others.

***Equifax***

P.O. Box 105069  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069  
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-fraud-alerts/>  
(800) 525-6285

***Experian***

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html>  
(888) 397-3742

***TransUnion***

Fraud Victim Assistance Department  
P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016-2000  
<https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts>  
(800) 680-7289

**3. Consider Placing a Security Freeze on Your Credit File.**

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, you may request a “Security Freeze” be placed on your credit file, at no charge. A security freeze prohibits, with certain specific exceptions, the consumer reporting agencies from releasing your credit report or any information from it without your express authorization. You may place a security freeze on your credit report by contacting all three nationwide credit reporting companies at the numbers below and following the stated directions or by sending a request in writing, by mail, to all three credit reporting companies:

***Equifax Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788  
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/>  
(888) 298-0045

***Experian Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
<http://experian.com/freeze>  
(888) 397-3742

***TransUnion Security Freeze***

P.O. Box 160  
Woodlyn, PA 19094  
<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>  
(888) 909-8872

In order to place the security freeze, 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 reporting company will send you a confirmation letter containing 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.

If your personal information has been used to file a false tax return, to open an account or to attempt to open an account in your name or to commit fraud or other crimes against you, you may file a police report in the City in which you currently reside.

If you do place a security freeze *prior* to enrolling in the credit monitoring service as described above, you will need to remove the freeze in order for them to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

**4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.**

Under federal law, you are entitled to one free credit report every 12 months from each of the above three major nationwide credit reporting companies. Call **1-877-322-8228** or request your free credit reports online at **[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)**. Once you receive your credit reports, review them for discrepancies. Identify any accounts you did not open or inquiries from creditors that you

did not authorize. Verify all information is correct. If you have questions or notice incorrect information, contact the credit reporting company.

## **5. Protecting Your Health Information.**

As a general matter the following practices can help to protect you from medical identity theft.

- Only share your health insurance cards with your health care providers and other family members who are covered under your insurance plan or who help you with your medical care.
- Review your “explanation of benefits” statement which you receive from your health insurance company. Follow up with your insurance company or the care provider for any items you do not recognize. If necessary, contact the care provider on the explanation of benefits statement and ask for copies of medical records from the date of the potential disclosure (December 31, 2021) to current date.
- Ask your insurance company for a current year-to-date report of all services paid for you as a beneficiary. Follow up with your insurance company or care provider for any items you do not recognize.

## **6. Additional Helpful Resources.**

Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommends that you check your credit reports periodically. Checking your credit report periodically can help you spot problems and address them quickly.

If you find suspicious activity on your credit reports or have reason to believe your information is being misused, call your local law enforcement agency and file a police report. Be sure to obtain a copy of the police report, as many creditors will want the information it contains to absolve you of the fraudulent debts. You may also file a complaint with the FTC by contacting them on the web at [www.ftc.gov/idtheft](http://www.ftc.gov/idtheft), by phone at 1-877-IDTHEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by mail at Federal Trade Commission, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. Your complaint will be added to the FTC’s Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, where it will be accessible to law enforcement for their investigations.

**Iowa Residents:** You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General’s Office to report suspected incidents of identity Theft: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Consumer Protection Division, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, [www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov), Telephone: 515-281-5164.

**Maryland Residents:** You may obtain information about avoiding identity theft from the Maryland Attorney General’s Office: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, [www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer](http://www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer), Telephone: 888-743-0023.

**Massachusetts Residents:** Under Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain a police report 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.

**New York Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the New York Attorney General’s Office: Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341; <https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds-bureau/identity-theft>; Telephone: 800-771-7755.

**North Carolina Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, [www.ncdoj.gov/](http://www.ncdoj.gov/), Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000.

**Oregon Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General’s Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, [www.doj.state.or.us/](http://www.doj.state.or.us/), Telephone: 877-877-9392

**Washington D.C. Residents:** You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 400 6th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>, Telephone: 202-442-9828.