

To Enroll, Please Call:
1-800-939-4170
Or Visit:
https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect

Enrollment Code: << XXXXXXXXX

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

March 14, 2023

Subject: Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>.

I am writing to inform you of a recent data security incident experienced by Eastern Research Group, Inc. ("ERG") that may have affected your personal information. ERG takes the privacy and security of all personal information within its possession very seriously. Please read this letter carefully as it contains information regarding the incident and steps that you can take to help protect your personal information.

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.

Massachusetts law also allows consumers to place a security freeze on their credit reports. 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 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 send a written request to **each** of the three major consumer reporting agencies:

Equifax Security Freeze: P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, 1-800-685-1111, www.equifax.com Experian Security Freeze: P.O. Box 9701, Allen, TX 75013, 1-888-397-3742, www.experian.com/freeze/center.html TransUnion Security Freeze: P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA, 19016, 1-888-909-8872, freeze:transunion.com

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Full name and any suffixes;
- 2. Social Security Number;
- 3. Date of birth:
- 4. If you have moved in the past five years, 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 either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft;

The consumer 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 call or send a request to the consumer reporting agencies 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 for the specified period of time.

To remove the security freeze, you must send a request to each of the three consumer reporting agencies 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. No fee is required to be paid to any of 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 1-877-322-8228. 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 Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580, www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338).

ERG has no evidence of the misuse or attempted misuse of any potentially impacted information. Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution, ERG is offering you twenty-four (24) months of complimentary identity protection services through IDX – a data breach and recovery services expert. These services include 24 months of credit¹ and dark web monitoring, a \$1 million identity fraud loss reimbursement policy, and fully managed identity theft recovery services. The deadline to enroll in these services is June 14, 2023. With this protection, IDX will help to resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

Please accept my sincere apologies for any worry or inconvenience that this may cause you. If you have questions or need assistance, please call IDX at 1-800-939-4170 from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. Central Time, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). IDX call center representatives are fully versed on this incident and can answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

John E. Dietel, General Counsel Eastern Research Group, Inc.

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¹ To receive credit monitoring services, you must be over the age of 18 and 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.