

SAMPLE LETTER TO AFFECTED MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENTS

Date

Consumer Name
Address
City, MA

Dear _____:

We are writing to notify you that a [breach of security/unauthorized acquisition or use] of your personal information occurred on [date(s)] at [name of entity that experienced the incident, and any corporation or person that owns that entity, where applicable].

YOUR NOTICE MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING 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.

You may also place a security freeze on your credit reports, free of charge. 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. Under federal law, you cannot be charged to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.

You must place your request for a freeze with each of the three major consumer reporting agencies: Equifax (www.equifax.com); Experian (www.experian.com); and TransUnion (www.transunion.com). To place a security freeze on your credit report, you may send a written request by regular, certified or overnight mail at the addresses below. You may also place a security freeze through each of the consumer reporting agencies' websites or over the phone, using the contact information below:

Equifax Security Freeze
P.O. Box 105788
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-800-349-9960
<https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/>

Experian Security Freeze
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742
<https://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html>

TransUnion Security Freeze
P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-888-909-8872
<https://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze>

In order to request a security freeze, you will need to provide some or all of the following information to the credit reporting agency, depending on whether you do so online, by phone, or by mail:

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 (5) years, the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill, telephone bill, rental agreement, or deed;
6. A legible photocopy of a government issued identification card (state driver's license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. Social Security Card, pay stub, or W2;
8. 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 credit reporting agencies have one (1) to three (3) business days after receiving your request to place a security freeze on your credit report, based upon the method of your request. 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. It is important to maintain this PIN/password in a secure place, as you will need it to lift or remove the security freeze.

To lift the security freeze in order to allow a specific entity or individual access to your credit report, you must make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (including name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number 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. You may also temporarily lift a security freeze for a specified period of time rather than for a specific entity or individual, using the same contact information above. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for request made by mail) 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 make a request to each of the credit reporting agencies by mail, through their website, or by phone (using the contact information above). You must provide proper identification (name, address, and social security number) and the PIN number or password provided to you when you placed the security freeze. The credit bureaus have between one (1) hour (for requests made online) and three (3) business days (for requests made by mail) after receiving your request to remove the security freeze.

[Credit Monitoring: Entities must provide affected consumers at least 18 months (at least 42 months if the entity is a consumer reporting agency) of free credit monitoring services if the information involved in the incident includes social security numbers. If you are providing credit monitoring services for affected Massachusetts residents, please include in this notice all information needed for the consumer to enroll.]

YOUR NOTICE MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

[Optional Additional Information: Although not required by M.G.L. c. 93H, you should also consider providing the affected Massachusetts residents with additional information to protect themselves against identity theft or other fraud including, but not limited to: the placement of fraud alerts on their credit file; the need to review their credit reports for unexplained activity; and the need to review credit card or other financial accounts for any suspicious and/or unauthorized activity. Please also provide any telephone numbers or websites that you have set up to answer any questions they may have concerning the incident. Please note that any additional advice provided to affected Massachusetts residents may vary on a case-by-case basis and these information suggestions are not a complete list of all the information that you may want to provide affected Massachusetts residents to better protect themselves against identity theft or fraud].

If you should have any further questions, please contact [provide contact information].

Sincerely,