

Hebbeler & Weickert CPAs, LLC to notify affected individuals of information security incident

August 17, 2022

The privacy and security of the personal information that we maintain is of the utmost importance to Hebbeler & Weickert CPAs, LLC. This notice concerns an incident that may affect the security of certain personal information that we received from a limited number of our business clients or from individuals directly.

We recently learned that an unauthorized individual may have obtained access to an employee email account between March 31, 2022 and April 8, 2022. We immediately launched an investigation in consultation with outside cybersecurity professionals who regularly investigate and analyze these types of situations to analyze the extent of any compromise of the email account and the security of the emails and attachments contained within them. We devoted considerable time and effort to determine what information was contained in the affected email account. Based on our comprehensive investigation and document review, which concluded on August 8, 2022, we discovered that the compromised email account contained a limited amount of personal information, including that of individuals whose personal information certain business clients provided us or that individuals provided us directly. The information included full names and one or more of the following: Social Security numbers, taxpayer identification numbers (which may be identical to Social Security numbers), driver's license/state identification numbers, dates of birth, bank/financial account information, medical information, and/or health insurance policy information.

We are providing written notification of this incident to all affected individuals to the extent we have their last known home address and to the extent the affected data point constitutes personal information as defined by the affected individuals' state of residence. If you are a business client and do NOT want us to notify impacted individuals affiliated with your organization of this incident, please let us know no later than August 31, 2022 by emailing Rob Hebbeler at rob@hwcpa513.com. Otherwise, we will issue notification to the affected individuals affiliated with your organization.

The notice letter will provide the affected individuals complimentary credit monitoring services (to the extent their Social Security number was impacted). The notice letters will also explain steps the affected individuals can take to protect themselves, including obtaining free credit reports, placing fraud alerts and/or security freezes on their credit files, remaining vigilant in reviewing their financial account statements for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis, and contacting their financial institutions to inquire about steps to take to protect their accounts. The notice letters will also provide the affected individuals with a telephone number that they can contact with any questions regarding the notice letter or the incident.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line that we have set up to respond to questions at 855-670-2524. This response line is staffed with professionals familiar with this incident and knowledgeable on what you can do to protect against misuse of your information. The response line is available Monday through Friday, 9am to 9pm Eastern.

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

We recommend that you place an initial one-year “Fraud Alert” on your credit files, 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

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.

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**. 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.

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, 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. In addition, you may obtain information from the FTC about fraud alerts and security freezes.

If this notice letter states that your bank/financial account information and/or credit or debit card information was impacted, we recommend that you contact your financial institution to inquire about steps to take to protect your account, including whether you should close your account or obtain a new account number.

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, Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

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 (TDD/TYY Support: 800-788-9898); Medicare Fraud Control Unit Direct Line: 212-417-5397.

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, Department of Justice, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226.