

Office of the Sheriff

Sheriff
Richard K. Jones

Chief Deputy
Anthony E. Dwyer



705 Hanover St.
Hamilton, Ohio 45011

Hamilton 513.785.1000
Middletown 513.424.2456
www.butlersheriff.org

Butler County, Ohio

April 15, 2021

«Name»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

Re: Notice of Data Breach

Dear «Name»:

The privacy and security of personal information is of the utmost importance to the Butler County Sheriff's Office. I am writing with important information regarding a recent data security incident that involved some of the information we maintain for our ongoing law enforcement work. We want to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services that we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened

In connection with a recent ransomware attack, an unauthorized party obtained access to our computer network on December 21, 2020 and removed some data from our computer environment. The cybercriminal posted some of our data on its website on March 1, 2021, which we learned included your personal information on April 8, 2021.

What We Are Doing

Upon learning of this issue, we commenced a prompt and thorough investigation with the assistance of external cybersecurity professionals. Since the cybercriminal's post on March 1, 2021, we worked to review the data, determine whose information may have been included, and locate those individuals so that we could provide proper notice.

We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information. We are taking steps to further enhance our network security and help prevent similar occurrences in the future, including:

- Implementing email security awareness training for all staff;
- Upgrading endpoint security software to include behavioral monitoring and artificial intelligence features;
- Requiring password changes for all employees and strengthening our password security policy;
- Enabling additional firewalls to isolate critical data; and
- Contracting with an email security provider for advanced email protection.

What Information Was Involved

The information may have included your name, address, date of birth, and driver's license number.

What You Can Do

Out of an abundance of caution, we recommend that you take the following preventative measures to help detect and mitigate any misuse of your information:

1. Enroll in a complimentary, one-year membership with Experian. This membership will provide you with identity monitoring services, including a copy of your credit report at signup; credit monitoring; identity restoration; Experian IdentityWorks ExtendCARE; and up to \$1 million in identity theft insurance. Instructions on how to activate your membership are included at the end of this letter.
2. Remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by regularly reviewing your account statements and monitoring free credit reports for any unauthorized activity. Information on additional ways to protect your information, including how to obtain a free credit report and free security freeze, can be found at the end of this letter.
3. Report any incidents of suspected identity theft to your local law enforcement and state Attorney General.

For More Information

We regret any inconvenience this incident may have caused. We remain fully committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and will continue to take many precautions to safeguard it.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please call me at (513) 785-1008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A E Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Deputy Anthony E. Dwyer

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IDENTITY THEFT AND WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Visit www.experian.com/credit-advice/topic-fraud-and-identity-theft.html for general information regarding identity protection. You can obtain additional information about fraud alerts, security freezes, and preventing identity theft from the consumer reporting agencies listed below and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by calling its identity theft hotline: 877-438-4338; TTY: 1-866-653-4261. They also provide information online at www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft. The FTC's address is: Federal Trade Commission, Division of Privacy and Identity Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20580. You have the ability to place a security freeze on your credit reports by contacting the following agencies.

National Credit Reporting Agencies Contact Information

Equifax P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-888-298-0045 www.equifax.com	Experian P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com	TransUnion P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-888-909-8872 www.transunion.com
--	---	--

You also may request a security freeze be added to your credit report at Experian's online Freeze Center, www.experian.com/freeze/center.html, by phone at 1-888-EXPERIAN (1-888-397-3742), or by mail to Experian Security Freeze, P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013. More information on a security freeze can be found below.

Obtain Your Credit Report

You should also monitor your credit reports. You may periodically obtain your credit reports from each of the national consumer reporting agencies. In addition, under federal law, you are entitled to one free copy of your credit report every 12 months from each of the three nationwide consumer reporting agencies listed above. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report by going to www.AnnualCreditReport.com or by calling (877) 322-8228. You also may complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form available from the FTC at www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/pdf-0093-annual-report-request-form.pdf and mail it to Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. You may also contact any of the three major consumer reporting agencies to request a copy of your credit report.

For Vermont residents: You may obtain one or more (depending on the state) additional copies of your credit report, free of charge. You must contact each of the credit reporting agencies directly.

If you discover inaccurate information or a fraudulent transaction on your credit report, you have the right to request that the consumer reporting agency delete that information from your credit report file. Even if you do not find any suspicious activity on your initial credit reports, the FTC recommends that you check your credit reports periodically, which can help spot and address problems quickly.

Fraud Alerts

You may want to consider placing a fraud alert on your credit report. An initial fraud alert is free and will stay on your credit file for at least 90 days. The alert informs creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report and requests that the creditor contact you prior to establishing any new accounts in your name. To learn about or place a fraud alert, contact any of the three national credit reporting agencies using the contact information listed above. Additional information is available at www.annualcreditreport.com.

Security Freeze

You have the ability to place a security freeze on your credit report at no cost to you. A security freeze is intended to prevent credit, loans and services from being approved in your name without your consent. To place a security freeze on

your credit report, you may be able to use an online process, an automated telephone line, or a written request to any of the three credit reporting agencies listed above. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse, this information must be provided for him/her as well): (1) full name, with middle initial and any suffixes; (2) Social Security number; (3) date of birth; (4) current address and any previous addresses for the past five years; (5) a legible copy of a government-issued identification card, (6) proof of current address, such as a legible copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement, (7) a legible copy of a recent W-2, pay stub, or Social Security card, and (8) if you are a victim of identity theft, a copy of either the police report, investigative report, or complaint to a law enforcement agency concerning identity theft. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. **Under federal law, you cannot be charged to place, lift, or remove a security freeze.**

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 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 to sign up for the credit monitoring service. After you sign up for the credit monitoring service, you may refreeze your credit file.

Additional Helpful Information

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, file a police report with your local law enforcement agency and contact your Attorney General. 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 at the information provided above.

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.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12-MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP:

TO ACTIVATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND START MONITORING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION PLEASE FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

- Ensure that you **enroll by: July 31, 2021** (Your code will not work after this date.)
- **Visit** the Experian IdentityWorks website to enroll: www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit
- Provide your **activation code: «Code»**

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with identity restoration or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **877.890.9332** by **July 31, 2021**. Be prepared to provide engagement number **B011625** as proof of eligibility for the identity restoration services by Experian. 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, Equifax and Transunion files 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.
- **Up to \$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance**:** Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

If you believe there was fraudulent use of your information and would like to discuss how you may be able to resolve those issues, please reach out to an Experian agent at **877.890.9332**. 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 (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 this Identity Restoration support is available to you for one year 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. You will also find self-help tips and information about identity protection at this site.

* 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.