

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

Via First-Class Mail

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<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>
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# <<br/> <<br/>b2b text 1 (Notice of Data [Breach / Incident])>>

Dear <<first name>> <<middle name>> <<last name>> <<suffix>>,

Johnson & Company, CPAs recently became aware of a data security incident which may have affected your personal information. Based on our current review, we have no evidence that the compromise originated from our network, but as a valued client of Johnson & Company, CPAs, we wanted to make you aware of the incident, the measures we have taken in response, and to provide details on the proactive steps you can take to help protect your information. <<br/>b2b\_text\_2 (CA Sentence: This notification was not delayed by law enforcement.)>>

# **What Happened**

On or about May 1, 2023, Johnson & Company, CPAs was alerted by our tax software provider, Intuit, that fraudulent 2022 tax returns had been filed on behalf of certain Johnson & Company, CPAs' clients who previously filed tax returns with us for 2021. While the IRS has reported an increase in similar incidents nationwide, out of an abundance of caution, Johnson & Company, CPAs conducted a diligent third-party forensic investigation in an effort to assist our clients in determining what occurred. Notably, the investigation did not identify any evidence of unauthorized access to our network.

#### **What Information Was Involved**

Even though the forensic investigation did not identify any evidence of unauthorized access to our network, out of an abundance of caution we are alerting you that the elements of your personal information that may have been impacted via the fraudulent tax return, may have included, and potentially were not limited to, <<br/>b2b\_text\_3 ("name" and data elements)>>.

#### What We Are Doing

We take the protection of sensitive data seriously and are committed to our systems' security and that of our third-party vendors. Additionally, to help relieve concerns following this incident, we secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring services at no cost to you for 12 months. Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping individuals who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data.

# What You Can Do

To activate the complimentary services we are offering you, please visit <a href="https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com">https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com</a>

You have until <<br/>b2b text 6 (activation date)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: << Membership Number s\_n>>

For more information about Kroll and the offered services, you can visit <u>info.krollmonitoring.com</u>. Additional information describing your services is also included on the next page of this letter.

Please note that to activate services, you may be required to provide your name, date of birth, and Social Security number through Kroll's automated system. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that the certain services might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with the credit bureaus or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Activating this service will not affect your credit score.

## Implementing an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) with the IRS

To help protect against a fraudulent tax return being filed under your name, we recommend Implementing an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) with the IRS. An IP PIN is a six-digit number that prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number. The IP PIN is known only to you and the IRS. It helps the IRS verify your identity when you file your electronic or paper tax return. Even though you may not have a filing requirement, an IP PIN still protects your account.

If you don't already have an IP PIN, you may get an IP PIN as a proactive step to protect yourself from tax-related identity theft. If you want to request an IP PIN, please note: you must pass an identity verification process; and Spouses and dependents are eligible for an IP PIN if they can pass the identity verification process. The fastest way to receive an IP PIN is by using the online Get an IP PIN tool found at: <a href="https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin">https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin</a>. If you wish to get an IP PIN and you don't already have an account on IRS.gov, you must register to validate your identity.

Some items to consider when obtaining an IP PIN with the IRS:

- An IP PIN is valid for one calendar year.
- A new IP PIN is generated each year for your account.
- Logging back into the Get an IP PIN tool, will display your current IP PIN.

An IP PIN must be used when filing any federal tax returns during the year including prior year returns.

As data incidents are increasingly common, we encourage you to always remain vigilant, and immediately report any suspicious activity or suspected misuse of your personal information. Additionally, we recommend that you review the following pages, which contain important additional information about steps you can take to safeguard your personal information, such as the implementation of fraud alerts and security freezes.

### For More Information

Please know that the protection of personal information is a top priority, and we understand the inconvenience and concern this incident may cause. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call <<TFN>>>, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding major U.S. holidays. Please have your membership number ready.

Sincerely,

Johnson & Company, CPAs



#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

# **Single Bureau Credit Monitoring**

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you'll have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

#### **Fraud Consultation**

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

## **Identity Theft Restoration**

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

Kroll's activation website is only compatible with the current version or one version earlier of Chrome, Firefox, Safari and Edge.

To receive credit 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.

# Additional Important Information

For residents of *Hawaii*, *Michigan*, *Missouri*, *North Carolina*, *Vermont*, *Virginia*, and *Wyoming*: It is recommended by state law that you remain vigilant for incidents of fraud and identity theft by reviewing credit card account statements and monitoring your credit report for unauthorized activity.

For residents of *Illinois*, *Iowa*, *Maryland*, *Missouri*, *North Carolina*, *Oregon*, and *West Virginia*: It is required by state laws to inform you that you may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, whether or not you suspect any unauthorized activity on your account. You may obtain a free copy of your credit report from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. To order your free credit report, please visit <a href="https://www.annualcreditreport.com">www.annualcreditreport.com</a>, or call toll-free at 1-877-322-8228. You can also order your annual free credit report by mailing a completed Annual Credit Report Request Form (available at <a href="https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports">https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports</a>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

<u>For residents of *Vermont*</u>: If you do not have internet access but would like to learn more about how to place a security freeze on your credit report, contact the Vermont Attorney General's Office at 802-656-3183 (800-649-2424 toll free in Vermont only).

<u>For residents of New Mexico</u>: Individuals interacting with credit reporting agencies have rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act. We encourage you to review your rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/documents/bcfp\_consumer-rights-summary\_2018-09.pdf, or by requesting information in writing from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 1700 G Street N.W., Washington, DC 20552.

<u>For residents of Washington, D.C.</u>: You can obtain information about steps to take to avoid identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia at: 441 4th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; 202-727-3400; www.oag.dc.gov.

For residents of *Iowa*: State law advises you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

**For residents of** *Oregon***:** State laws advise you to report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement, including the Attorney General, and the Federal Trade Commission.

<u>For residents of Maryland, Rhode Island, Illinois, New York, and North Carolina</u>: You can obtain information from the Maryland and North Carolina Offices of the Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission about fraud alerts, security freezes, and steps you can take toward preventing identity theft

**Maryland Office of the Attorney General** Consumer Protection Division, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 1-888-743-0023 <a href="https://www.oag.state.md.us">www.oag.state.md.us</a>

**Rhode Island Office of the Attorney General** Consumer Protection, 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903 1-401-274-4400 <a href="https://www.riag.ri.gov">www.riag.ri.gov</a>

**North Carolina Office of the Attorney General** Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001 1-877-566-7226 <a href="https://www.ncdoj.com">www.ncdoj.com</a>

**Federal Trade Commission** Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Washington, DC 20580 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338) <a href="https://www.ftc.gov/idtheft">www.ftc.gov/idtheft</a>

New York Office of Attorney General Consumer Frauds & Protection, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 1-800-771-7755 <a href="https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft">https://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/identity-theft</a>

For residents of *Massachusetts* and *Rhode Island*: It is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report if you are a victim of identity theft.

## For residents of all states:

**Fraud Alerts:** You can place fraud alerts with the three credit bureaus by phone and online with Equifax (https://assets.equifax.com/assets/personal/Fraud\_Alert\_Request\_Form.pdf); TransUnion (https://www.transunion.com/fraud-alerts); or Experian (https://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html). A fraud alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures, including contacting you, before they open any new accounts or change your existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect you, but also may delay you when you seek to obtain credit. As of September 21, 2018, initial fraud alerts last for one year. Victims of identity theft can also get an extended fraud alert for seven years. The phone numbers for all three credit bureaus are at the bottom of this page.

Monitoring: You should always remain vigilant and monitor your accounts for suspicious or unusual activity.

Security Freeze: You also have the right to place a security freeze on your credit report. 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 need to make a request to each consumer reporting agency. You may make that request by certified mail, overnight mail, regular stamped mail, or by following the instructions found at the websites listed below. The following information must be included when requesting a security freeze (note that if you are requesting a credit report for your spouse or a minor under the age of 16, 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; and (5) any applicable incident report or complaint with a law enforcement agency or the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The request must also include a copy of a government-issued identification card and a copy of a recent utility bill or bank or insurance statement. It is essential that each copy be legible, display your name and current mailing address, and the date of issue. As of September 21, 2018, it is free to place, lift, or remove a security freeze. You may also place a security freeze for children under the age of 16. You may obtain a free security freeze by contacting any one or more of the following national consumer reporting agencies:

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

Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 experian.com/freeze/center.html 1-888-397-3742 P.O. Box 160
Woodlyn, PA 19094
transunion.com/credit-freeze
1-888-909-8872

More information can also be obtained by contacting the Federal Trade Commission listed above.