

<<Mail ID>> <<Name 1>> <<Name 2>> <<Address 1>> <<Address 2>> <<Address 3>> <<Address 4>> <<Address 5>> <<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Date>>

## *RE:* NOTICE OF DATA BREACH Important Security Notification. Please read this entire letter.

Dear <</Name 1>>:

I am writing to inform you of a data security incident experienced by Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors ("Brown") that may have involved your personal information described below. You are receiving this letter because you have either previously been a client of Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors' or have previously worked with our partners at Mortgage Makers.

Brown takes the privacy and security of all information very seriously. While we have no evidence to suggest that any of the impacted information was viewed or misused during this compromise, it is crucial that we be as supportive and transparent as possible. That is why I am writing to inform you of this incident, to offer information about steps that can be taken to help protect your information, and to let you know about complimentary credit monitoring services that we are offering you through TransUnion, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies.

I sincerely apologize for any concern that this incident may cause you. Let me reassure you Brown is fully committed to supporting you.

#### What Happened:

On or around May 19, 2020, Brown became aware of a phishing email that had been sent to several employee emails with a malicious link. Upon discovery, Brown immediately performed a password reset for the accounts and swiftly engaged a third-party forensic company to investigate. Following progress by experts in their thorough investigation, it was ultimately determined that the employee email accounts were subject to unauthorized access between April 23, 2020 and April 29, 2020. Upon confirmation of the unauthorized access to Brown's employee email accounts, Brown's third-party forensic experts immediately investigated whether the affected email accounts contained individuals' sensitive information. On August 10, 2020, after a thorough investigation, it was discovered that the unauthorized access may have allowed access to your personal information. We immediately began working to obtain sufficient contact information to provide you with this notification.

While we have no reason to believe that any information within the affected email account was actually viewed, collected or misused during this compromise, we are providing this notification to you out of an abundance of caution and so that you may diligently monitor your personal information and resources. We take great care in the security of our technology systems, and regret that this incident has occurred.

## **What Information Was Involved:**

It is important to note, as mentioned above, that there is no evidence to suggest that any personally identifiable information has been viewed or misused. The personal information that <u>could have been viewed</u> by the unauthorized individual(s) may have included your first and last name, in combination with your <<Data Elements>>.

#### What We Are Doing:

Brown has taken every step necessary to address the incident and is committed to fully protecting all of the information that you have entrusted to us. Unfortunately, phishing events have become more common and the attack experienced by Brown is similar to others experienced by other companies and industries. Upon learning of this incident, we immediately secured the affected work station, reset passwords, and took steps to enhance the security of all information to help prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. We conducted a thorough investigation and are offering you complimentary credit monitoring and identity protection services.

#### **Credit Monitoring:**

As a safeguard, we have arranged for you to enroll, at no cost to you, in an online credit monitoring service (myTrueIdentity) for 12 months provided by TransUnion Interactive, a subsidiary of TransUnion<sup>®</sup>, one of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Additional information regarding how to enroll in the complimentary credit monitoring service is enclosed.

#### What You Can Do:

In addition to enrolling in the complimentary credit monitoring service detailed within, we recommend that you remain vigilant in regularly reviewing and monitoring all of your account statements and credit history to guard against any unauthorized transactions or activity. If you discover any suspicious or unusual activity on your accounts, please promptly contact your financial institution or company. We have provided additional information below, which contains more information about steps you can take to protect yourself against fraud and identity theft.

#### **For More Information:**

Should you have questions or concerns regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us at 888-905-0062 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

Brown has no relationship more important or more meaningful than the one we share with you. I want to personally express my deepest regret for any worry or inconvenience that this incident may cause you.

Sincerely,

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Gerry Schuetzenhofer, President Coldwell Banker Brown Realtors 2205 South State Route 157 Edwardsville, IL 62025

# ADDITIONAL ACTIONS TO HELP REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF IDENTITY THEFT

## TransUnion<sup>®</sup> myTrueIdentity provides you with the following key features:

- The daily credit monitoring service will notify you if there are any critical changes to your credit file at TransUnion, including fraud alerts, new inquiries, new accounts, new public records, late payments, changes of address, and more.
- 12 months of unlimited access to your TransUnion<sup>®</sup> credit report and credit score.
- The service also includes access to an identity restoration program that provides assistance in the event that your identity is compromised and up to \$1,000,000 in identity theft insurance with no deductible.<sup>1</sup>

#### How to Enroll: You can sign up online or via U.S. mail delivery

- To enroll in this service, go to the *my*TrueIdentity website at **www.MyTrueIdentity.com** and, in the space referenced as "Enter Activation Code," enter the 12-letter Activation Code **<<Insert Unique 12-letter Activation Code>>** and follow the three steps to receive your credit monitoring service online within minutes.
- If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to enroll in a similar offline, paper-based credit monitoring service, via U.S. mail delivery, please call the TransUnion Fraud Response Services toll-free hotline at **1-855-288-5422**. When prompted, enter the six-digit telephone passcode <<**Insert static 6-digit Telephone Pass Code**>> and follow the steps to enroll in the offline credit monitoring service, add an initial fraud alert to your credit file, or to speak to a TransUnion representative if you believe you may be a victim of identity theft.

You can sign up for the online or offline credit monitoring service anytime between now and **<<Enrollment Deadline>>**. Due to privacy laws, we cannot register you directly. Please note that credit monitoring services might not be available for individuals who do not have a credit file with TransUnion or an address in the United States (or its territories) and a valid Social Security number. Enrolling in this service will not affect your credit score.

## > PLACE A 1-YEAR FRAUD ALERT ON YOUR CREDIT FILE

An **initial 1-year security alert** indicates to anyone requesting your credit file that you suspect you are a victim of fraud. When you or someone else attempts to open a credit account in your name, increase the credit limit on an existing account, or obtain a new card on an existing account, the lender should take steps to verify that you have authorized the request when a fraud alert is active. If the creditor cannot verify this, the request should not be satisfied. You may contact one of the credit reporting companies below for assistance.

Fraud Victim Assistance Dept.National ConsP.O. Box 6790P.O. Box 1017Fullerton, CA 92834Allen, TX 7501-800-680-82891-888-397-37www.transunion.comwww.experiar	P.O. Box 105069 Atlanta, GA 30348 42 1-800-525-6285
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# > PLACE A SECURITY FREEZE ON YOUR CREDIT FILE

If you are very concerned about becoming a victim of fraud or identity theft, a security freeze might be right for you. Placing a freeze on your credit report will prevent lenders and others from accessing your credit report in connection with any new credit application, which will prevent them from extending credit. A security freeze generally does not apply to circumstances in which you have an existing account relationship and a copy of your report is requested by your existing creditor or its agents or affiliates for certain types of account review, collection, fraud control or similar activities. With a security freeze in place, you will be required to take special steps when you wish to apply for any type of credit. This process is also completed through each of the credit reporting agencies. You should be aware that using a security freeze to take control over who gets access to the personal and financial information in your credit report may delay, interfere with, or prohibit the timely approval of any subsequent request or application you make regarding a new loan, credit, mortgage, or any other account involving the extension of credit. Pursuant to federal law, you cannot be charged to place or lift a security freeze on your 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

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (Policy limitations and exclusions may apply.)

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.

# > ORDER YOUR FREE ANNUAL CREDIT REPORTS

You can obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, directly from each of the three nationwide credit reporting agencies once every twelve (12) months. Visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. 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.

## > MANAGE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Take steps such as: carrying only essential documents with you; being aware of whom you are sharing your personal information with; and shredding receipts, statements, and other sensitive information. Remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports.

## > USE TOOLS FROM CREDIT PROVIDERS

Carefully review your credit reports and bank, credit card and other account statements. Be proactive and create alerts on credit cards and bank accounts to notify you of activity. If you discover unauthorized or suspicious activity on your credit report or by any other means, file an identity theft report with your local police and contact a credit reporting company.

## **BE AWARE OF SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY INVOLVING YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE**

Contact your healthcare provider if bills do not arrive when expected, and review your Explanation of Benefits forms to check for irregularities or suspicious activity. You can also contact your health insurance company to notify them of possible medical identity theft or ask for a new account number.

## **RIGHTS UNDER THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT (FCRA)**

You have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in your credit file has been used against you, the right to know what is in your credit file, the right to ask for your credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act: (i) the consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; (iii) access to your file is limited; (iv) you must give consent for credit reports to be provided to your employees; (v) you may limit "prescreened" offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting https://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504\_cfpb\_summary\_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

# **>** OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IDENTITY THEFT AND WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

You can further educate yourself regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes, and the steps you can take to protect yourself, by contacting the consumer reporting agencies, the Federal Trade Commission, or your state Attorney General. Additionally, any suspected identity theft should be reported to law enforcement, including your state Attorney General and the Federal Trade Commission. Additional information is available at <a href="http://www.annualcreditreport.com">http://www.annualcreditreport.com</a>. Under Rhode Island and Massachusetts law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident.

- Visit http://www.experian.com/credit-advice/topic-fraud-and-identity-theft.html for general information regarding protecting your identity.
- The Federal Trade Commission has an identity theft hotline: 1-877-438-4338; TTY: 1-866-653-4261. They also provide information online at www.ftc.gov/idtheft. For Mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20580.

- For Maryland residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023, <u>www.oag.state.md.us</u>.
- For New York residents, you may contact and obtain information from these state agencies: New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <u>http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotectionl</u>; and New York State Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <u>https://ag.ny.gov</u>
- For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6400, <u>www.ncdoj.gov</u>.
- For Rhode Island Residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 150 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903, <u>http://www.riag.ri.gov</u> or 401-274-4400.