



Montana State University
University Communications
920 Technology Blvd.
P.O. Box 172220
Bozeman, MT 59717-2220

June 20, 2023

Dear [REDACTED]:

Great Falls College Montana State University is committed to protecting the privacy and security of the personal information we maintain. We are writing to inform you about a data security incident that may have involved some of your information. This letter explains the incident, measures we have taken, and some steps you may consider taking in response.

We recently completed an investigation of a data security incident that involved unauthorized access to certain college computer systems. Upon identifying the incident, we immediately secured the systems involved, alerted law enforcement, and launched an investigation. Through the investigation, we determined that between April 5, 2023, and April 21, 2023, an unauthorized actor accessed and/or took certain files stored on our computer servers. We conducted a review of the files and on May 30, 2023, we identified one or more file(s) containing your name and one or more of the following: your driver's license number, Social Security number, financial account number, and/or information about disability accommodations provided to you.

We are offering you complimentary identity theft protection services through a one-year membership with Experian® IdentityWorksSM Credit 3B. This product helps detect possible misuse of your personal information and provides you with identity protection services focused on immediate identification and resolution of identity theft. IdentityWorks is completely free to you and enrolling in this program will not hurt your credit score. For more information on Experian IdentityWorks Credit 3B, including instructions on how to activate your complimentary membership as well as some additional steps you can take to help protect yourself, please see the pages that follow this letter.

We regret any inconvenience or concern this may cause you. To help prevent a similar incident from occurring in the future, we have implemented additional safeguards and technical security measures to enhance the security of our network. If you have any questions, please call (866) 984-3033, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm Mountain Time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Thompson".

Scott Thompson
Executive Director of Community Relations

Activate IdentityWorks In Three Easy Steps

1. ENROLL by: **9/7/2023** (Your code will not work after this date.)
2. VISIT the **Experian IdentityWorks website** to enroll: <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
3. PROVIDE the **Activation Code**: [REDACTED]

If you have questions about the product, need assistance with Identity Restoration that arose as a result of this incident or would like an alternative to enrolling in Experian IdentityWorks online, please contact Experian's customer care team at **(877) 288-8057**. Be prepared to provide engagement number [REDACTED] as proof of eligibility for the Identity Restoration services by Experian.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING YOUR 12 MONTH EXPERIAN IDENTITYWORKS MEMBERSHIP

A credit card is **not** required for enrollment in Experian IdentityWorks.

You can contact Experian **immediately without needing to enroll in the product** regarding any fraud issues. Identity Restoration specialists are available to help you address credit and non-credit related fraud.

Once you enroll in Experian IdentityWorks, you will have access to the following additional features:

- **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 file 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.
- **\$1 Million Identity Theft Insurance****: Provides coverage for certain costs and unauthorized electronic fund transfers.

Activate your membership today at <https://www.experianidworks.com/3bcredit>
or call **(877) 288-8057** to register with the activation code above

What you can do to protect your information: There are additional actions you can consider taking to reduce the chances of identity theft or fraud on your account(s). Please refer to www.ExperianIDWorks.com/restoration for this information. If you have any questions about IdentityWorks, need help understanding something on your credit report, or suspect that an item on your credit report may be fraudulent, please contact Experian's customer care team at **(877) 288-8057**.

* 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.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity over the next 12–24 months. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-888-378-4329
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 1000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.identitytheft.gov

Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud: an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

Credit or Security Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That is because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they cannot see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- *Equifax Security Freeze*, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com
- *Experian Security Freeze*, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- *TransUnion Security Freeze*, PO Box 160, Woodlyn, PA 19094, www.transunion.com

You will need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, and other personal information. After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with 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.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

Great Falls College Montana State University is located at 2100 16th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405, and can be reached at (406) 771-4300.