



Return Processing Center:
PO Box 173071 |
Milwaukee, WI 53217

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to the Lorain County Auditor's Office ("Lorain County"). We are writing with important information regarding a data security incident that may have involved some of your information. We want to provide you with information about the incident, explain the services we are making available to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

On or about May 23, 2025, Lorain County detected that an unauthorized party obtained access to the internal network of the Lorain County Auditor's Office.

What We Are Doing

Upon learning of this issue, we immediately commenced a prompt and thorough investigation. As part of our investigation, we have been working very closely with external cybersecurity professionals experienced in handling these types of incidents. After an extensive forensic investigation and document review, on August 6, 2025, we discovered that certain files containing your personally identifiable information were stored in the impacted systems and may have been subject to unauthorized access or acquisition.

What Information Was Involved?

The potentially impacted information includes [REDACTED] and the following: [REDACTED]. To the best of our knowledge, this incident impacted information *only* contained in the Lorain County Auditor's Office. Further, we have no evidence that information from any other county department was impacted in this incident.

What You Can Do

Although we have no indication at this time of any misuse of your information, we have secured the services of Privacy Solutions to provide complimentary identity monitoring for [REDACTED] months at no charge. To enroll in the credit monitoring services at no charge, please visit [REDACTED] and enter the following activation code, [REDACTED], to activate your membership and start monitoring your personal information. Please note the deadline to enroll is [REDACTED]. Privacy Solutions provides credit monitoring through Equifax, credit report and score access, identity theft insurance with \$0 deductible, Identity Restoration services, and dark web monitoring.

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a fraud alert and/or security freeze on your credit files, and/or obtaining a free credit report. Additionally, you should always remain vigilant in reviewing your financial account statements and credit reports for fraudulent or irregular activity on a regular basis.

For More Information

We apologize this has happened and are committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. We continually evaluate and modify our practices to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any questions regarding this incident, please call our dedicated and confidential toll-free response line [REDACTED]. 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 [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

Lorain County Auditor's Office

226 Middle Ave.

Elyria, OH 44035

– OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION –

1. Enrolling in Complimentary [REDACTED] Month Credit Monitoring.

To enroll in the credit monitoring services at no charge, please visit [REDACTED] and enter the following activation code, [REDACTED], to activate your membership and start monitoring your personal information. Please note the deadline to enroll is [REDACTED].

Privacy Solutions provides 1-Bureau credit monitoring through Equifax, credit report and score access, identity theft insurance with \$0 deductible, ID Restoration services, and dark web monitoring.

2. Placing a Fraud Alert on Your Credit File.

Whether or not you choose to use the complimentary credit monitoring services, 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

3. 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.

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.

4. Obtaining a Free Credit Report.

Under federal law, you are entitled to one (1) free credit report every twelve (12) months from each of the above three (3) 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.

5. 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.

Iowa Residents: You may contact law enforcement or the Iowa Attorney General's Office to report suspected incidents of identity Theft: Office of the Attorney General of Iowa, Consumer Protection Division, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, IA 50319, www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov, Telephone: 515-281-5164.

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, <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/>, Telephone: 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.

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, Consumer Protection Division, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov/, Telephone: 877-566-7226 (Toll-free within North Carolina), 919-716-6000.

Oregon Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Oregon Attorney General's Office: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 877-877-9392.

Washington D.C. Residents: You may obtain information about preventing identity theft from the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia, 400 6th Street NW, Washington D.C. 20001, <https://oag.dc.gov/consumer-protection>, Telephone: 202-442-9828.

* * * * *