

South Suburban College
c/o Cyberscout
PO Box 1286
Dearborn, MI 48120-9998



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[Redacted]



August 5, 2024

Notice of Data Security Incident

Dear [Redacted]:

South Suburban College (“SSC”) is a higher education institution located in South Holland, Illinois, offering Associate degree and certificate programs. As a current or former student at SSC, we are writing to notify you of a data security incident that may have exposed your personal information. SSC takes the confidentiality of our student data very seriously, and we want to provide you with information and resources you can use to protect your information.

What Happened and What Information Was Involved:

On or around November 8, 2023, SSC detected that it was the target of a cybersecurity attack, in which an unauthorized third party attempted to infiltrate SSC’s network and demand a ransom payment. Upon detecting the incident, SSC moved quickly to secure its network environment and launched a thorough investigation. The investigation was performed with the help of independent IT security and forensic investigators to determine the scope and extent of the potential unauthorized access of our systems and any personal information.

Although SSC has found no evidence your information has been specifically accessed for misuse, it is possible your name, mailing address, date of birth, and/or social security number, to the extent that such may have existed on the network, could have been exposed. Notably, the types of information affected were different for each individual, and not every individual had all of the elements listed above exposed.

As of this writing, SSC has not received any reports of related identity theft since the date of the incident (November 8, 2023 to present). SSC has taken all efforts possible to mitigate any further exposure of your personal information and related identity theft.

What We Are Doing:

The security and privacy of personal data remain among SSC’s highest priorities. SSC has engaged external cybersecurity experts and is taking steps to prevent a similar event from occurring in the future by implementing additional safeguards and enhanced security measures to better protect the privacy and security of information in its systems. SSC has also reviewed and taken steps to enhance its policies and procedures relating to the security of its systems, as well as its information life cycle management.

Additionally, in response to the incident, SSC is providing you with access to Single Bureau Credit Monitoring/Single Bureau Credit Report/Single Bureau Credit Score services at no charge. These services provide you with alerts for twelve (12) months from the date of enrollment when changes occur to your credit file. These notifications are sent to you the same day the change or update takes place with the bureau. SSC is also providing you with proactive fraud assistance to help with any questions you might have or in the event you become a victim of fraud. These services will be provided by TransUnion.

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What You Can Do:

To enroll in credit monitoring services at no charge, please access <https://bfs.cyberscout.com/activate> and follow the instructions provided. When prompted, please provide the following unique code to receive services: **E450A8471660**. In order for you to receive the monitoring services described above, you must enroll within 90 days from the date of this letter. The enrollment requires an internet connection and e-mail account and may not be available to minors under the age of 18. Please note when signing up for monitoring services that you may be asked to verify personal information for your own protection to confirm your identity.

For More Information:

If you have any questions, you may contact the help line at 1-833-531-2194. Help line representatives are available to assist you with questions for 90 days from the date of this letter, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. If you call the help line, be prepared to supply the fraud specialist with your unique code listed above.

You are encouraged to take full advantage of the credit monitoring services provided. Enclosed you will find additional materials regarding the resources available to you and the steps you can take to further protect your personal information.

Again, SSC values the security of the personal data it maintains and understands the frustration, concern, and inconvenience that this incident may have caused.

Sincerely,



Dr. Lynette Stokes
President
South Suburban College



Patrick Rush
Vice President of Administration
South Suburban College

Additional Information

Credit Reports: 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 www.annualcreditreport.com, 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 <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0155-free-credit-reports>) to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA, 30348-5281.

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:

<p>Equifax Security Freeze P.O. Box 105788 Atlanta, GA 30348 1-888-298-0045 https://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services/credit-freeze/</p>	<p>Experian Security Freeze P.O. Box 9554 Allen, TX 75013 1-888-397-3742 www.experian.com/freeze/center.html</p>	<p>TransUnion Security Freeze P.O. Box 160 Woodlyn, PA 19094 1-800-916-8800 www.transunion.com/credit-freeze</p>
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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 listed above.

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

File Police Report: You have the right to file or obtain a police report if you experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can generally report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.



FTC and Attorneys General: 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.

The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, www.identitytheft.gov, 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them. You can obtain further information on how to file such a complaint by way of the contact information listed above. You have the right to file a police report if you ever experience identity theft or fraud. Please note that in order to file a report with law enforcement for identity theft, you will likely need to provide some proof that you have been a victim. Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

For Arizona residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at the Consumer Protection & Advocacy Section, 2005 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, 1-602-542-5025.

For Colorado residents, the Attorney General may be contacted through Consumer Protection 1300 Broadway, 9th Floor, Denver, CO 80203 1-720-508-6000, www.coag.gov.

For Iowa residents, you can report any suspected identity theft to law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

For District of Columbia residents, the District of Columbia Attorney General may be contacted at: 400 6th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001; 202-727-3400; and oag.dc.gov.

For Maryland residents, the Maryland Attorney General can be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023, and www.oag.state.md.us.

For Massachusetts residents, it is required by state law that you are informed of your right to obtain a police report filed in regard to this incident. If you are the victim of identity theft, you also have the right to file a police report and obtain a copy of it.

For New Mexico residents, 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, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to your file is limited; you must give your consent for credit reports to be provided to employers; you may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance you get based on information in your credit report; and you may seek damages from violators. You may have additional rights under the Fair 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. We encourage you to review your rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.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.

For New York residents, the Attorney General may be contacted at Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, and <https://ag.ny.gov/>.

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, and www.ncdoj.gov.

For Rhode Island residents, the Rhode Island Attorney General can be reached at 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, and 1-401-274-4400. Under Rhode Island law, you have the right to obtain any police report filed in regard to this incident. There are approximately 2 Rhode Island residents that may be impacted by this event.

For Vermont Residents: 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).



