



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

<<FirstName>> <<MiddleName>> <<LastName>> <<NameSuffix>>  
<<Address1>>  
<<Address2>>  
<<City>>, <<State>> <<Zip>>

## Re: Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<FirstName>> <<MiddleName>> <<LastName>> <<NameSuffix>>,

McCauley & Associates, LLC (“McCauley & Associates”) is writing to notify you of an incident that may have impacted the security of some of your personal information. We want to provide you with information about the incident, our response, and steps you may take to help safeguard against possible misuse of your personal information, should you feel it necessary to do so.

**What Happened?** We recently learned from the New York Department of Taxation and Finance that an unauthorized individual attempted to fraudulently file tax returns for 2018 McCauley & Associates clients. The tax returns reflected inaccurate tax information and were filed using a self-prepared service and not McCauley & Associates’ preparer information. We immediately contacted the IRS and undertook an investigation with our IT vendor and a third-party investigator to determine if an unauthorized actor had gained access to McCauley & Associates’ systems. Our investigation did not find any indication that our computer systems were compromised. At this time, other than the rejected tax returns, we have no evidence that any of our client’s information was misused. Out of an abundance of caution, we are notifying you to provide you with information and resources to protect your information, as you are either a client of McCauley & Associates or are a spouse or dependent of a McCauley & Associates client.

**What Information was Involved?** We were informed by the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance that 2018 tax information was utilized to prepare fraudulent 2019 returns. At this time, McCauley & Associates is unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of your personal information, but it is possible that your 2018 tax information, including name, Social Security Number, address, financial account information, and driver’s license information could be at risk.

**What We Are Doing.** The confidentiality, privacy, and security of our client personal information within our care is among McCauley & Associates’ highest priorities. Upon learning of the event, we reviewed our security posture and worked with a third party to implement additional security measures. Additionally, we have contacted the IRS and the State Taxing Authorities to alert them to be vigilant when receiving and processing any filings for our 2018 clients.

As an added precaution, McCauley & Associates is offering you access to twelve (12) months of free identity monitoring services through Kroll at no cost to you.

Kroll is a global leader in risk mitigation and response, and their team has extensive experience helping people who have sustained an unintentional exposure of confidential data. Your identity monitoring services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://krollbreach.idmonitoringservice.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until **July 12, 2020** to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<Member ID>>

Additional information describing your services is included with this letter.

**What You Can Do.** Please review the enclosed *Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud*. There you will find more information on the identity monitoring services we are offering and how to activate.

**For More Information.** We understand you may have questions that are not answered in this letter. If you have questions or concerns regarding this incident, please call 1-888-921-0494, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Central Time.

McCauley & Associates regrets any inconvenience or concern this incident may have caused you.

Sincerely,

Michael McCauley, McCauley & Associates, LLC

## Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Against Identity Theft and Fraud

We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious activity. Under U.S. law you are entitled to one free credit report annually from each of the three major credit reporting bureaus. To order your free credit report, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or call, toll-free, 1-877-322-8228. You may also contact the three major credit bureaus directly to request a free copy of your credit report.

You have the right to place a “security freeze” on your credit report, which will prohibit a consumer reporting agency from releasing information in your credit report without your express authorization. The security freeze is designed to prevent credit, loans, and services from being approved in your name without your consent. However, 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 report. Should you wish to place a security freeze, please contact the major consumer reporting agencies listed below:

### **Experian**

P.O. Box 9554  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742

[www.experian.com/freeze/center.html](http://www.experian.com/freeze/center.html)

### **TransUnion**

P.O. Box 160  
Woodlyn, PA 19094  
1-888-909-8872

[www.transunion.com/credit-freeze](http://www.transunion.com/credit-freeze)

### **Equifax**

P.O. Box 105788  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5788  
1-800-685-1111

[www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](http://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)

To request a security freeze, you will need to provide the following information:

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, provide the addresses where you have lived over the prior five years;
5. Proof of current address, such as a current utility bill or telephone bill;
6. A legible photocopy of a government-issued identification card (state driver’s license or ID card, military identification, etc.);
7. 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.

As an alternative to a security freeze, you have the right to place an initial or extended “fraud alert” on your file at no cost. An initial fraud alert is a 1-year alert that is placed on a consumer’s credit file. Upon seeing a fraud alert display on a consumer’s credit file, a business is required to take steps to verify the consumer’s identity before extending new credit. If you are a victim of identity theft, you are entitled to an extended fraud alert, which is a fraud alert lasting seven years. Should you wish to place a fraud alert, please contact any one of the agencies listed below:

### **Experian**

P.O. Box 2002  
Allen, TX 75013  
1-888-397-3742

[www.experian.com/fraud/center.html](http://www.experian.com/fraud/center.html)

### **TransUnion**

P.O. Box 2000  
Chester, PA 19016  
1-800-680-7289

[www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert](http://www.transunion.com/fraud-victim-resource/place-fraud-alert)

### **Equifax**

P.O. Box 105069  
Atlanta, GA 30348  
1-888-766-0008

[www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services](http://www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services)

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](http://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 and your state Attorney General. This notice has not been delayed by law enforcement.

*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; <https://ag.ny.gov/>.*

*For Maryland residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 200 St. Paul Place, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-410-528-8662, [www.oag.state.md.us](http://www.oag.state.md.us).*

*For North Carolina residents, the Attorney General can be contacted at 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, 1-877-566-7226 or 1-919-716-6000, [www.ncdoj.gov](http://www.ncdoj.gov). You can obtain information from the Attorney General or the Federal Trade Commission about preventing identity theft.*



## **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES**

You've been provided with access to the following services<sup>1</sup> 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 can help you determine if it's 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 can dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

<sup>1</sup> 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.