

Notice of Data Event
Mercyhurst University – February 21, 2023

In 2022, Mercyhurst University (“Mercyhurst”) discovered suspicious activity in our environment. Upon learning this, Mercyhurst immediately launched an investigation to determine the nature and scope of the activity. The investigation, which was conducted with the assistance of third-party forensic specialists, determined that there was unauthorized access to our environment between January 16, 2022 and May 15, 2022. The investigation also determined that an unauthorized actor had the ability to access certain information stored on the network during this period of time. Therefore, Mercyhurst undertook a comprehensive review of the data at risk to assess if any sensitive information could be affected and to whom it related. On September 16, 2022, Mercyhurst completed this review and determined the data contained certain sensitive information. Mercyhurst began notifying impacted individuals for whom they had addresses of this event by mail on November 8, 2022. Mercyhurst continued to review its records to try to find addresses for the additional individuals. This review is now complete and Mercyhurst was unable to locate addresses for approximately 300 individuals whose information is protected by Pennsylvania law. If you would like to determine whether you were potentially impacted, please call 888-574-6901.

Mercyhurst takes the confidentiality, privacy, and security of information in its care very seriously. Upon discovery of the incident, we immediately commenced an investigation and took steps to implement additional safeguards and review our policies and procedures relating to data privacy and security. The investigation determined the following type of information may have been contained in the impacted systems: name and one or more of Social Security number, financial account information, and payment card information.

Since discovery of the event, we implemented additional security measures to further protect information. Although we are unaware of any actual or attempted misuse of any information, we are providing notice of this incident out of an abundance of caution.

We encourage potentially impacted individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud by reviewing their accounts, explanations of benefits, and credit reports for suspicious activity, and to report any suspicious activity to the affiliated institutions immediately. Individuals may contact the three major credit reporting agencies for advice on how to obtain free credit reports and how to place fraud alerts and security freezes on credit files. The relevant contact information is below.

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 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

TransUnion
P.O. Box 160

Equifax
P.O. Box 105788

Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com/freeze/center.html

Woodlyn, PA 19094
1-888-909-8872

www.transunion.com/credit-freeze

Atlanta, GA 30348-5788
1-800-685-1111

www.equifax.com/personal/credit-report-services

In order 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 one-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 9554
Allen, TX 75013
1-888-397-3742

www.experian.com/fraud/center.html

TransUnion

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-916-8800

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

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 and your state Attorney General.