

December 18, 2006

Dear <NAME>:

On December 6, 2006, Mississippi State University (MSU) staff discovered a potential security breach involving personal information on an MSU web server. The web server was immediately removed from the network and during the intervening days we have been conducting a forensic investigation.

As a result of that investigation, we have determined that your name and social security number were contained in information, some dating back to 2001, which was inadvertently left on the web server. There were no direct links to the information, but we have discovered that it was publicly accessible and it may have been viewed by people outside of the University. Although we have no evidence that an unauthorized individual is using your personal data, we are bringing this incident to your attention, so that you can be alert to signs of any possible misuse of your personal identity.

In response to this incident, Mississippi State University has arranged with Equifax Personal Solutions to help you protect your identity and your credit information at no cost to you. The process to access this assistance is outlined in the attached sheet. In addition, the University has developed a general information web site about protecting your identity, which you can access at <http://identityprotection.msstate.edu>.

If you have experienced what you believe to be a documented case of identify theft based on the information in this letter, you should take the following steps: 1) contact the MSU Police Department at 662-325-2121 or 662-325-1811; 2) file a complaint with the FBI at www.ic3.gov, referencing Mississippi State University in the form provided; 3) report the suspected activity to the financial agencies with which you deal.

The University is committed to maintaining the privacy of student information and takes many precautions for the security of personal information. In response to incidents like this one and the increasing number of internet-enabled computer attacks, the University is continually modifying its systems and practices to enhance the security of sensitive information. We sincerely regret any inconvenience this incident presents to you.

Sincerely,

Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong
President, Mississippi State University

Attachment: Equifax Personal Solutions documentation

Promotional Code: <PROMOCODE>

Equifax Personal Solutions
Provided by Mississippi State University
December 2006

1. Enroll in Equifax Credit Watch™ Gold with 3-in-1 Monitoring identity theft protection service. This product is being provided to you at no cost.
2. Additionally, you may choose to adopt an increased level of protection by placing a fraud alert on your credit file at Equifax and the other two credit reporting agencies

Enroll in Equifax Credit Watch™ Gold with 3-in-1 Monitoring

Equifax Credit Watch will provide you with an “early warning system” to changes to your credit file and help you to understand the content of your credit file at the three major credit reporting agencies. The key features and benefits are listed below.

Equifax Credit Watch provides you with a 1 year membership service:

- Comprehensive credit file monitoring of your Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion credit reports with daily notification of key changes to your credit files from any of the three agencies.
- Wireless alerts and customizable alerts available
- One 3-in-1 Credit Report and unlimited access to your Equifax Credit Report™
- \$20,000 in identity theft protection with \$0 deductible (certain limitations and exclusions may apply)
- 24 by 7 live agent Customer Service to assist you in understanding the content of your Equifax credit information, to provide personalize identity theft victim assistance and in initiating an investigation of inaccurate information.

How to Enroll

Equifax has a simple Internet-based verification and enrollment process.

Visit: www.myservices.equifax.com/tri

1. Consumer Information: complete the form with your contact information (name, address and e-mail address) and click “Continue” button. The information is provided in a secured environment.
2. Identity Verification: complete the form with your Social Security Number, date of birth, telephone #s, create a User Name and Password, agree to the Terms of Use and click “Continue” button. The system will ask you up to two security questions to verify your identity.
3. Payment Information: During the "check out" process, provide the following promotional code: **<PROMOCODE>** in the “Enter Promotion Code” box. (case sensitive, no spaces, include dash.) After entering your code press the “Apply Code” button and then the “Submit Order” button at the bottom of the page. (This code eliminates the need to provide a credit card number for payment.)
4. Order Confirmation: – Click “View My Product” to access your 3-in-1 Credit Report.

If you do not have access to the Internet or wish for any other reason to enroll in Credit Watch by Mail with 3-in-1 Monitoring instead of the online service, please fill out the attached form and fax or mail it to the number/address listed on the form. You will also need the Promotional Code to enroll.

Directions for placing a Fraud Alert

A fraud alert is a consumer statement added to your credit report. This statement alerts creditors of possible fraudulent activity within your report as well as requests that they contact you prior to establishing any accounts in your name. Once the fraud alert is added to your credit report, all creditors should contact you prior to establishing any account in your name. To place a fraud alert on your Equifax credit file, you may contact our auto fraud line at 1-877-478-7625, and follow the simple prompts. Once the fraud alert has been placed with Equifax, a notification will be sent to the other two credit reporting agencies, Experian and Trans Union, on your behalf.

<NAME>