



19 Common St
Saco, ME 04072

<<First Name>> <<Last Name>>
<<Address 1>> <<Address 2>>
<<City>><<State>><<Zip>>

<<Date>>

Enrollment Code: <<XXXXXXXXXX>>

To Enroll, Scan the QR Code Below:



Or Visit:

<https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY

Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>:

The privacy and security of the personal information we maintain is of the utmost importance to Begin and Associates. We are writing with important information regarding an incident that may have impacted some of your information. As such, we want to provide you with information about the incident, tell you about the services that we are providing to you, and let you know that we continue to take significant measures to protect your information.

What Happened?

As you may be aware, we recently learned that a limited number of our clients' 2024 tax returns had been fraudulently filed, including yours.

What We Are Doing.

Upon learning of this issue, we immediately launched a thorough investigation and contacted the IRS and State of Maine regarding the incident. We recently discovered that an unauthorized third party accessed the tax software system we use to prepare and electronically file tax returns. After an investigation, on June 25, 2025, we determined certain information about you may have been accessed or acquired by an unauthorized party.

What Information Was Involved?

While the investigation could not determine exactly what information was accessed, it is possible that your [REDACTED] may have been accessible through our tax platform.

What You Can Do.

To date, we are not aware of any reports of identity fraud or improper use of your personal information as a direct result of this incident. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, we are offering identity theft protection services through IDX, A ZeroFox Company, the data breach and recovery services expert. IDX identity protection services include: 12 months of credit and CyberScan monitoring, a \$1,000,000 insurance reimbursement policy, and fully managed id theft recovery services. With this protection, IDX will help you resolve issues if your identity is compromised.

We encourage you to contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in the free identity protection services by going to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> or scanning the QR image and using the Enrollment Code provided above. Please note the deadline to enroll is [REDACTED]

This letter also provides other precautionary measures you can take to protect your personal information, including placing a Fraud Alert and Security Freeze on your credit files, and 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.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that your information has been misused. However, we encourage you to take full advantage of this service offering. IDX representatives have been fully versed on the incident and can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding protection of your personal information.

For More Information.

Please accept our apologies that this incident occurred. Begin and Associates is committed to maintaining the privacy of personal information in our possession and have taken many precautions to safeguard it. Begin and Associates continually evaluates and modifies its practices and internal controls to enhance the security and privacy of your personal information.

If you have any further questions regarding this incident, please contact Bob Begin at (207) 282-8909 or bob@begincpa.com.

Sincerely,

Begin and Associates
19 Common St
Saco, ME 04072



Recommended Steps to help Protect your Information

1. Website and Enrollment. Scan the QR image or go to <https://app.idx.us/account-creation/protect> and follow the instructions for enrollment using your Enrollment Code provided at the top of the letter.

2. Activate the credit monitoring provided as part of your IDX identity protection membership. The monitoring included in the membership must be activated to be effective. Note: You must have established credit and access to a computer and the internet to use this service. If you need assistance, IDX will be able to assist you.

3. Review your credit reports. We recommend that you remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, you also are entitled every 12 months to one free copy of your credit report from each of the three major credit reporting companies. To obtain a free annual credit report, go to www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228. You may wish to stagger your requests so that you receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

If you discover any suspicious items and have enrolled in IDX identity protection, notify them immediately by calling or by logging into the IDX website and filing a request for help.

If you file a request for help or report suspicious activity, you will be contacted by a member of our ID Care team who will help you determine the cause of the suspicious items. In the unlikely event that you fall victim to identity theft as a consequence of this incident, you will be assigned an ID Care Specialist who will work on your behalf to identify, stop and reverse the damage quickly.

You should also know that you have the right to file a police report if you ever 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 some kind of proof that you have been a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. You can report suspected incidents of identity theft to local law enforcement or to the Attorney General.

4. Place Fraud Alerts with the three credit bureaus. If you choose to place a fraud alert, we recommend you do this after activating your credit monitoring. You can place a fraud alert at one of the three major credit bureaus by phone and also via Experian's or Equifax's website. 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. The contact information for all three bureaus is as follows:

Credit Bureaus

Equifax Fraud Reporting
1-866-349-5191
P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348-5069
www.equifax.com

Experian Fraud Reporting
1-888-397-3742
P.O. Box 9554
Allen, TX 75013
www.experian.com

TransUnion Fraud Reporting
1-800-680-7289
P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19022-2000
www.transunion.com

It is necessary to contact only ONE of these bureaus and use only ONE of these methods. As soon as one of the three bureaus confirms your fraud alert, the others are notified to place alerts on their records as

well. You will receive confirmation letters in the mail and will then be able to order all three credit reports, free of charge, for your review. An initial fraud alert will last for one year.

Please Note: No one is allowed to place a fraud alert on your credit report except you.

5. Security Freeze. By placing a security freeze, someone who fraudulently acquires your personal identifying information will not be able to use that information to open new accounts or borrow money in your name. You will need to contact the three national credit reporting bureaus listed above to place the freeze. Keep in mind that when you place the freeze, you will not be able to borrow money, obtain instant credit, or get a new credit card until you temporarily lift or permanently remove the freeze. There is no cost to freeze or unfreeze your credit files.

6. You can obtain additional information about the steps you can take to avoid identity theft from the following agencies. The Federal Trade Commission also encourages those who discover that their information has been misused to file a complaint with them.

All US Residents: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580, <https://consumer.ftc.gov>, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), TTY: 1-866-653-4261.