



**Edwards, Faust & Smith**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

## Notice of Data Security Incident

«AddressBlock»

Dear «custom1\_text»,

We are writing to let you know about a data security incident at Edwards, Faust & Smith, CPAs (EFS). We know this kind of notice can be unsettling to receive, and we are sorry for the concern it may cause. We value the trust you place in our firm, and we take our responsibility to protect your information very seriously.

At this time, we have no evidence that your information has been misused. However, because we cannot rule out the possibility that certain information may have been accessed, we are providing this notice to explain what happened, what we have done in response, and steps you can take to help protect your information.

**WHAT HAPPENED.** On April 30, 2026, our IT provider discovered unauthorized activity involving parts of our computer network. We immediately worked with our IT provider and cybersecurity specialists to investigate, contain the activity, and strengthen our systems. The investigation found that the activity began with phishing that appeared to come from a prospective client and affected one firm computer and our remote server. Upon discovery the server was isolated and by May 5, 2026, all unauthorized activity was fully mitigated.

**WHAT INFORMATION WAS INVOLVED.** The information potentially involved may have included your name and information contained in tax return preparation files or other documents provided to or maintained by EFS. This may have included Social Security or taxpayer identification numbers, tax return information, IRS transcripts, financial account information, financial statements, date of birth, government-issued identification, and client correspondence.

**WHAT WE ARE DOING.** We moved promptly to investigate, contain, and remediate the incident, including working to secure affected systems, reset passwords, and strengthen protections across our environment. In addition, EFS has implemented upgrades to our administrative, technical, and security safeguards.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO.** We recommend getting an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN) from the IRS. Once obtained, this six-digit number prevents someone else from filing a tax return using your Social Security number or ITIN. To learn more and sign up for an IP PIN, please visit <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theftfraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>. We have also attached additional resources and steps you can take to protect your identity.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION.** If you have questions about this incident or need assistance, please call us 207-947-4575, Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30pm.

We sincerely regret any concern or inconvenience this incident may cause. Protecting client information is very important to us, and we remain committed to strengthening our security safeguards.

Sincerely,

*Edwards, Faust & Smith*

Edwards, Faust & Smith CPAs

## Additional Steps You Can Take to Help Protect Personal Information

**Monitor Your Accounts.** We encourage you to remain vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by carefully reviewing account statements, explanation-of-benefits statements, credit reports, tax notices, and other financial records. If you detect suspicious activity, promptly notify the relevant financial institution, government agency, or credit bureau.

You are entitled to obtain free credit reports from the three nationwide credit reporting agencies. You may request reports by visiting [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), calling **1-877-322-8228**, or contacting the credit reporting agencies directly.

**Place a Fraud Alert.** You may place a fraud alert on your credit file. A fraud alert tells creditors to take additional steps to verify your identity before opening a new account or changing an existing account. You may place a fraud alert by contacting any one of the three major credit reporting agencies. The agency you contact is generally required to notify the other two.

**Place a Security Freeze.** You may place a security freeze on your credit file. A security freeze restricts access to your credit report, which can make it more difficult for an identity thief to open new accounts in your name. A security freeze does not affect your ability to use existing credit accounts.

To place a security freeze, contact each of the three major credit reporting agencies:

Credit Reporting Agency	Website	Phone
Equifax	<a href="http://www.equifax.com">www.equifax.com</a>	1-888-298-0045
Experian	<a href="http://www.experian.com">www.experian.com</a>	1-888-397-3742
TransUnion	<a href="http://www.transunion.com">www.transunion.com</a>	1-800-916-8800

When requesting a security freeze, you may need to provide information such as your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, and other information needed to verify your identity.

### Report Suspected Identity Theft or Fraud

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or fraud, you should promptly report it to law enforcement, your financial institutions, and the Federal Trade Commission. You may contact the Federal Trade Commission at [www.identitytheft.gov](http://www.identitytheft.gov) or **1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338)** for guidance on recovery steps.

You may also contact your state attorney general's office or local law enforcement for additional information about preventing and responding to identity theft.

### Additional Practical Steps

- Review your bank, credit card, investment, and loan statements for unauthorized activity.
- Watch for IRS or state tax notices about returns, refunds, transcripts, or accounts you do not recognize.
- Be cautious of unsolicited emails, calls, or text messages requesting personal or financial information.
- Use strong, unique passwords for financial, tax, and email accounts.
- Enable multi-factor authentication where available.
- Promptly report suspicious tax-related communications to the IRS and applicable state tax authority.

**For Maine Residents:** You may contact the Maine Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 6 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333, by phone at 207-626-8800, or online at [www.maine.gov/ag](http://www.maine.gov/ag).