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Notice of Breach of Sensitive Personal Information

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SANDRA K. DUCHWORTH, COUNTY CLERK

Newton County is posting this notice to inform individuals of a security breach that affected sensitive personal information related to a limited number of individuals. This notice explains the incident, steps the County took in response to it, and additional information about steps affected individuals may take to help protect their information.

What Happened

The County experienced a limited security incident on or around March 2, 2026. The investigation revealed an unauthorized individual accessed one email account. A thorough review of the impacted data was conducted to identify what information was involved and which individuals may have been impacted. On April 14, 2026, the County determined sensitive information may have been acquired.

Who Was Affected

Only certain individuals were affected. If you believe you may have been affected, please contact the toll-free number below.

What Information Was Involved

The affected information was comprised of an individual's first and last name in combination with either a driver's license number, social security number, and/or a limited amount of health information.

What The County Is Doing

To help prevent a similar type of incident from occurring in the future, the County implemented additional security protocols and retrained employees. In addition, for individuals who were affected, the County is offering identity theft protection services through IDX, 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 affected individuals resolve issues if their identity is compromised.

What Affected Individuals Can Do

We encourage affected individuals to contact IDX with any questions and to enroll in the free identity protection services by calling toll free +1 (833) 788-9712. IDX representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time.

Again, at this time, there is no evidence that any individual's information has been misused. However, we encourage affected individuals to take full advantage of this service offering. IDX representatives have been fully versed about the incident and can answer questions or concerns affected individuals may have regarding protection of their sensitive personal information.

For More Information

Please also review and consider the Suggested Steps to Help Protect Affected Individual's Information on the following page.

If there are questions or further assistance is needed, please call +1 (833) 788-9712 for assistance. Representatives are available Monday through Friday from 9 am - 9 pm Eastern Time.

Sincerely

County Judge Ronald J. Cochran

Suggested Steps to Help Protect Affected Individual's Information

1. Telephone. Contact IDX at +1 (833) 788-9712 to gain additional information about this event and speak with knowledgeable representatives about the appropriate steps to take to protect one's credit identity. Call center representatives also can help enroll in credit monitoring services for those affected.

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

3. Review credit reports. It is suggested that affected individuals remain vigilant by reviewing account statements and monitoring credit reports. Under federal law, individuals also are entitled every 12-months to one free copy of their 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. Individuals may wish to stagger requests so that they receive a free report by one of the three credit bureaus every four months.

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

Affected individuals should also know that they have the right to file a police report if they ever experience identity fraud. Please note that in order to file a crime report or incident report with law enforcement for identity theft, individuals will likely need to provide some kind of proof that they were a victim. A police report is often required to dispute fraudulent items. Individuals 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 individuals choose to place a fraud alert, it is suggested that individuals do this after activating their credit monitoring. Individuals 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 the individual, before they open any new accounts or change existing accounts. For that reason, placing a fraud alert can protect individuals, but also may cause delays when individuals 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 the fraud alert, the others are notified to place alerts on their records as well. Individuals will receive confirmation letters in the mail and will then be able to order all three credit reports, free of charge, for review. An initial fraud alert will last for one year.

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

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

6. Affected individuals can obtain additional information about the steps they 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.

California Residents: Visit the California Office of Privacy Protection (www.oag.ca.gov/privacy) for additional information on protection against identity theft. Office of the Attorney General of California, 1300 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, Telephone: 1-800-952-5225.

Kentucky Residents: Office of the Attorney General of Kentucky, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, www.ag.ky.gov, Telephone: 1-502-696-5300.

Maryland Residents: Office of the Attorney General of Maryland, Consumer Protection Division 200 St. Paul Place Baltimore, MD 21202, www.oag.state.md.us/Consumer, Telephone: 1-888-743-0023.

New Mexico Residents: Individuals have rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, such as the right to be told if information in their credit file has been used against them, the right to know what is in their credit file, the right to ask for their credit score, and the right to dispute incomplete or inaccurate information. Further, pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act, the consumer reporting agencies must correct or delete inaccurate, incomplete, or unverifiable information; consumer reporting agencies may not report outdated negative information; access to individuals file is limited; individuals must give their consent for credit reports to be provided to

employers; individuals may limit “prescreened” offers of credit and insurance they get based on information in their credit report; and individuals may seek damages from a violator. Individuals may have additional rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act not summarized here. Identity theft victims and active-duty military personnel have specific additional rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. Individuals can review their rights pursuant to the Fair Credit Reporting Act by visiting www.consumerfinance.gov/f/201504_cfpb_summary_your-rights-under-fcra.pdf, or by writing Consumer Response Center, Room 130-A, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580.

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/>.

North Carolina Residents: Office of the Attorney General of North Carolina, 9001 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-9001, www.ncdoj.gov, Telephone: 1-919-716-6400.

Oregon Residents: Oregon Department of Justice, 1162 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301-4096, www.doj.state.or.us/, Telephone: 1-877-877-9392

Rhode Island Residents: Office of the Attorney General, 150 South Main Street, Providence, Rhode Island 02903, www.riag.ri.gov, Telephone: 1-401-274-4400

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.