Equifax Data Breach

On September 7, 2017, Equifax announced that it experienced a cybersecurity breach that exposed the personal and financial data of approximately 143 million consumers. Equifax is one of the three major credit reporting agencies responsible for collecting and compiling the credit history of consumers and businesses.

The breach occurred between mid-May and July. The hackers obtained names, Social Security Numbers, birth dates, addresses and driver's license numbers.

Consumers should remain calm, but vigilant and on the lookout for a compromise of their personal and financial data. Everyone should proceed as though they are one of the individuals whose personal information was exposed by this breach. Consider the following measures to safe guard against identity theft:

- Actively monitor your credit report for any suspicious activity or new lines of credit opened in your name. A free credit report can be obtained from each credit reporting bureau – Equifax, Experian and TransUnion - at www.AnnualCreditReport.com.
- Dispute, in writing, any accounts that you deem unauthorized or suspicious.
- Monitor your bank accounts and credit card statements to ensure no fraudulent purchases have been made. Dispute any unauthorized charges with the company immediately.
- Do not disclose any sensitive information to individuals who call unsolicited claiming to represent your bank, credit card company or the IRS. They will not call to request personal or financial information such as your bank account or Social Security Number. Hang up and call the number you know to be associated with the company.
- You may wish to place a credit freeze on your credit report, which will eliminate anyone from opening a new account in your name, or a credit alert, which ensures you are contacted if anyone attempts to open a new account in your name.

For more information on the Equifax data breach, visit https://www.equifaxsecurity2017.com/. For tips on how to protect your identity, visit the Division's Identity Theft page.