

LaGrange County Commissioners

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LaGrange, Indiana 46761

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Telephone

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Fax

NOTICE OF INADVERTENT DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL INFORMATION TO LAGRANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS – PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE LETTER.

April 17, 2018

This letter is to inform you that the Board of Commissioners for LaGrange, Indiana (“the County”) has been notified of an incident that may have resulted in the inadvertent disclosure of your personal information. In November 2017, a LaGrange County resident received information that inadvertently included 23 names and social security numbers. The County became aware of the disclosure on April 2, 2018. The disclosure had been previously unknown.

Even before the report was confirmed, out of an abundance of caution, the Commissioners launched an investigation to determine the scope of the disclosure. The investigation has been unable to verify that any additional disclosure occurred. The County contacted the Indiana Attorney General’s office and notified the public, generally, with an immediate press release. The County has taken steps to prevent a reoccurrence and requested all department heads to receive and provide further training.

It is highly unlikely your personal information is at risk of identity theft from this incident, but we urge you to take steps, described below, to help protect yourself. We advise you to request a credit report to look for unusual activity. Indiana residents are entitled to a free credit report annually. You can request a credit report or fraud alert from one or more of the credit agencies at (877) 322-8228 or at www.annualcreditreport.com. Monitoring and periodically reviewing your credit report is an effective tool in fighting identity theft. Additional information can be obtained from the three major credit bureaus:

- Equifax – (800) 525-6285, www.equifax.com
- Experian – (888) 397-3742, www.experian.com
- TransUnion – (800) 680-7289, www.transunion.com

Helpful information for the protection of your privacy can be found at the Indiana Consumer Protection Division website at <https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/2336.htm>. You should consult it for information on how to identify and respond to suspicious activity. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can contact us at (260) 499-6311.

Please note that the County will only further contact you regarding this matter if you contact us first. We will not ask for your social security number, credit card, or bank information.

In similar cases at other agencies, criminals have been known to contact citizens, fraudulently claiming to represent the government agency and asking for personal information. Do not release personal information in response to any contact of this nature that you have not initiated; the County will not ask for this information over the phone.

We sincerely regret and apologize that this unfortunate incident occurred. We recommit ourselves to the safekeeping of the personal information of all our citizens. If you have any questions or concerns related to this incident or the steps you need to protect yourself, please do not hesitate to contact the County at (260) 499-6311.

Sincerely,

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
COUNTY OF LAGRANGE, INDIANA**

/s/ Larry N. Miller, President

/s/ Terry A. Martin, Vice-President

/s/ Dennis H. Kratz, Member

Tips from the Federal Trade Commission on Identity Theft

My Social Security number was compromised...

- Get your free credit reports from annualcreditreport.com. Check for any accounts or charges you don't recognize.
- Consider placing a credit freeze. A credit freeze makes it harder for someone to open a new account in your name.
 - If you place a freeze, be ready to take a few extra steps the next time you apply for a new credit card or cell phone – or any service that requires a credit check.
 - If you decide not to place a credit freeze, at least consider a request to the credit reporting agency that they flag your file with a 90-day fraud alert.
- Try to file your taxes early – before a scammer can. Tax identity theft occurs when someone uses your Social Security number to get a tax refund or a job. Respond right away to letters from the IRS, or call the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at 1-800-908-4490. Specialists will work with you to get your tax return filed, get you any refund you are due, and protect your IRS account from identity thieves in the future.
- Don't believe anyone who calls and says you'll be arrested unless you pay for taxes or debt — even if they have part or all of your Social Security number, or they say they're from the IRS.
- Continue to check your credit reports at annualcreditreport.com. You can order a free report from each of the three credit reporting companies once a year.

Other Tips

- Monitor your financial transactions on a regular basis.
- Check with your local bank or your credit card agency to learn what services they offer.
- If you experience an identity theft, file a complaint with the FTC at ftc.gov/complaint or 1-877-438-4338, and take the printed report to the local police.
- Consider acquiring an IP PIN from the IRS, a six-digit number that must be added to all your tax filings to prevent criminal use. <https://www.irs.gov/identity-theft-fraud-scams/get-an-identity-protection-pin>.
- Keep copies of letters in your files, and record dates of all sent letters and phone calls.
- The IRS doesn't start contact with a taxpayer by sending an email, text, or social media message that asks for personal or financial information. If you get an email that claims to be from the IRS, do not reply or click on any links. Instead, forward it to phishing@irs.gov.