

Notice of Data Privacy Event

Berkshire Farm Center & Youth Services (“Berkshire”) is providing notice of a recent data privacy event that may impact the privacy of a limited amount of information related to individuals. Berkshire is unaware of any misuse of individual information and is providing notice to potentially affected individuals in an abundance of caution.

On or about August 9, 2022, Berkshire became aware of suspicious activity relating to an employee’s email account. Berkshire immediately took steps to secure its email environment and launched an investigation, with the assistance of third-party specialists, to determine the nature and scope of the activity. Berkshire’s investigation determined that there was unauthorized access to the employee’s email account.

In an abundance of caution, Berkshire reviewed the contents of the email account to determine what information was contained within, and to whom the information relates. Berkshire then worked to gather address information for the potentially affected individuals in order to provide written notice of the event.

The types of information that may have been accessed or acquired by the unauthorized actor varies by individual. However, the information may have included: full name, and medical treatment information. At this time, Berkshire is unaware of any or actual or attempted misuse of the affected information as a result of this event.

Berkshire treats its duty to safeguard personal information as an utmost priority. Berkshire responded immediately to this event and worked diligently to provide potentially affected individuals with accurate and complete notice of the event as soon as possible. With the assistance of third-party specialists, Berkshire also took steps to review and enhance the security of its systems. As part of Berkshire’s ongoing commitment to the privacy and security of information in its care, Berkshire is reviewing existing policies and procedures to mitigate any risk associated with this event and to better prevent future events.

On October 6, 2022, Berkshire began notifying potentially impacted individuals and regulatory authorities, as required. Although Berkshire is unaware of the misuse of any personal information impacted by this event, individuals are encouraged to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft by reviewing account statements, explanation of benefits, and monitoring free credit reports for suspicious activity and to detect errors. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the appropriate insurance company, health care provider, or financial institution.

Berkshire encourages potentially impacted individuals to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review account statements, and to monitor their credit reports and explanation of benefits forms for suspicious activity. Berkshire is providing potentially impacted individuals with contact information for the three major credit reporting agencies, as well as providing advice on how to obtain free credit reports and how to place fraud alerts and security freezes on their credit files. The relevant contact information is below:

Equifax

P.O. Box 105069
Atlanta, GA 30348
1-888-766-0008
www.equifax.com

Experian

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

TransUnion

P.O. Box 2000
Chester, PA 19016
1-800-680-7289
www.transunion.com

Potentially impacted individuals may also find information regarding identity theft, fraud alerts, security freezes and the steps they may take to protect their information by contacting the credit bureaus, the Federal Trade Commission or their state Attorney General. The Federal Trade Commission can be reached at: 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580; www.identitytheft.gov; 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338); and TTY: 1-866-653-4261.

Instances of known or suspected identity theft should also be reported to law enforcement or the individual's state Attorney General.

Individuals seeking additional information regarding this event, or believe that they have been impacted, can call Berkshire's dedicated, toll-free number at (833) 575-2854, available Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 11:00 PM Eastern time, or Saturday and Sunday from 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Individuals may also write to Berkshire directly at 13460 State Route 22, Canaan, NY, 12029.

Berkshire is committed to safeguarding personal information and will continue to work to enhance the protections in place to secure the information in its care.