



John Stokes Financial
2030 Main Street, Suite 1300
Irvine, CA 92614-7220

Securities America Inc.
12325 Port Grace Blvd.
La Vista, NE 68128

<<Date>> (Format: Month Day, Year)

<<first_name>> <<middle_name>> <<last_name>> <<suffix>>
<<address_1>>
<<address_2>>
<<city>>, <<state_province>> <<postal_code>>
<<country>>

Notice of Data Breach

Dear <<first_name>> <<last_name>>:

We are writing to notify you that John Stokes Financial (“JSF”) experienced a security incident that may have involved some of your personal information. JSF is an entity not affiliated with Securities America, Inc. (“SAI”) but whose financial professionals are registered with SAI for the sale of securities products and provision of financial advice. This letter explains the incident, outlines the measures we have taken, and provides steps you can take in response.

What Happened?

On October 14, 2021, JSF launched an investigation into suspicious activity originating from an employee’s email account. As soon as we became aware of the activity, we took immediate steps to secure the email account and a cybersecurity firm was engaged to assist in a forensic analysis of the incident. Our investigation determined that an unauthorized individual accessed a JSF employee’s email account. We were unable to determine the exact period of unauthorized access or which emails or attachments, if any, were viewed by the unauthorized party. Therefore, we conducted a thorough review of the entire contents of the account to determine the specific individuals whose information was contained within the emails and attachments. On a positive note, it has been determined that this incident did not affect SAI or Advisor Group Inc. computer systems and there is no impact to these associated systems or data. Furthermore, your advisor has experienced no disruptions in servicing your account.

What Information Was Involved?

We analyzed the results and on January 3, 2022, determined that an email or attachment in the account included some of your information, including your <<b2b_text_1(DataElements)>>.

What We Are Doing.

Your confidence and trust are important to us, and we regret any inconvenience or concern this incident may cause. To further protect your information, we have implemented additional measures to enhance our existing security protocols and are re-educating our staff for awareness on these types of incidents. Additionally, we have secured the services of Kroll to provide identity monitoring services at no cost to you for one year. Services include Credit Monitoring, Fraud Consultation, and Identity Theft Restoration.

Visit <https://enroll.krollmonitoring.com> to activate and take advantage of your identity monitoring services.

You have until <<b2b_text_6(ActivationDeadline)>> to activate your identity monitoring services.

Membership Number: <<MembershipNumber(S_N)>>

For more information about Kroll and your Identity Monitoring services, you can visit info.krollmonitoring.com.

If you prefer to activate these services offline and receive monitoring alerts via the US Postal Service, you may activate via our automated phone system by calling 1-888-653-0511, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Central Time, excluding major U.S. holidays. Please have your membership number located in your letter ready when calling. Please note that to activate monitoring services, you will be required to provide your name, date of birth, and Social Security number through our automated phone system.

For additional steps you can take in response to the incident, please see the information provided in this letter below.

What You Can Do.

We encourage you to remain vigilant by reviewing your account statements and credit reports for any unauthorized activity over the next 12 to 24 months. If you see unauthorized charges or activity, please contact your financial institution immediately. For more information, including some additional steps you can take to help protect your information, please see the pages that follow this letter.

For More Information.

We regret this incident occurred and apologize for any inconvenience. If you have any questions, please call [1-888-653-0511](tel:1-888-653-0511), Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Pacific Time, excluding major U.S. holidays.

Sincerely,

John Stokes

John Stokes
CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hal Gilbert', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hal Gilbert
Securities America Senior Privacy Officer



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR IDENTITY MONITORING SERVICES

You have been provided with access to the following services from Kroll:

Triple Bureau Credit Monitoring

You will receive alerts when there are changes to your credit data at any of the three national credit bureaus—for instance, when a new line of credit is applied for in your name. If you do not recognize the activity, you will have the option to call a Kroll fraud specialist, who will be able to help you determine if it is an indicator of identity theft.

Fraud Consultation

You have unlimited access to consultation with a Kroll fraud specialist. Support includes showing you the most effective ways to protect your identity, explaining your rights and protections under the law, assistance with fraud alerts, and interpreting how personal information is accessed and used, including investigating suspicious activity that could be tied to an identity theft event.

Identity Theft Restoration

If you become a victim of identity theft, an experienced Kroll licensed investigator will work on your behalf to resolve related issues. You will have access to a dedicated investigator who understands your issues and can do most of the work for you. Your investigator will be able to dig deep to uncover the scope of the identity theft, and then work to resolve it.

ADDITIONAL STEPS YOU CAN TAKE

We remind you it is always advisable to be vigilant for incidents of fraud or identity theft by reviewing your account statements and free credit reports for any unauthorized activity over the next 12 to 24 months. You may obtain a copy of your credit report, free of charge, once every 12 months from each of the three nationwide credit reporting companies. To order your annual free credit report, please visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call toll free at 1-877-322-8228. Contact information for the three nationwide credit reporting companies is as follows:

- *Equifax*, PO Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374, www.equifax.com, 1-800-685-1111
- *Experian*, PO Box 2002, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com, 1-888-397-3742
- *TransUnion*, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com, 1-800-916-8800

If you believe you are the victim of identity theft or have reason to believe your personal information has been misused, you should immediately contact the Federal Trade Commission and/or the Attorney General's office in your state. You can obtain information from these sources about steps an individual can take to avoid identity theft as well as information about fraud alerts and security freezes. You should also contact your local law enforcement authorities and file a police report. Obtain a copy of the police report in case you are asked to provide copies to creditors to correct your records. Contact information for the Federal Trade Commission is as follows:

- *Federal Trade Commission*, Consumer Response Center, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20580, 1-877-IDTHEFT (438-4338), www.ftc.gov/idtheft

Fraud Alerts and Credit or Security Freezes:

Fraud Alerts: There are two types of general fraud alerts you can place on your credit report to put your creditors on notice that you may be a victim of fraud—an initial alert and an extended alert. You may ask that an initial fraud alert be placed on your credit report if you suspect you have been, or are about to be, a victim of identity theft. An initial fraud alert stays on your credit report for one year. You may have an extended alert placed on your credit report if you have already been a victim of identity theft with the appropriate documentary proof. An extended fraud alert stays on your credit report for seven years.

To place a fraud alert on your credit reports, contact one of the nationwide credit bureaus. A fraud alert is free. The credit bureau you contact must tell the other two, and all three will place an alert on their versions of your report.

For those in the military who want to protect their credit while deployed, an Active Duty Military Fraud Alert lasts for one year and can be renewed for the length of your deployment. The credit bureaus will also take you off their marketing lists for pre-screened credit card offers for two years, unless you ask them not to.

Credit or Security Freezes: You have the right to put a credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, on your credit file, free of charge, which makes it more difficult for identity thieves to open new accounts in your name. That's because most creditors need to see your credit report before they approve a new account. If they can't see your report, they may not extend the credit.

How do I place a freeze on my credit reports? There is no fee to place or lift a security freeze. Unlike a fraud alert, you must separately place a security freeze on your credit file at each credit reporting company. For information and instructions to place a security freeze, contact each of the credit reporting agencies at the addresses below:

- **Experian Security Freeze**, PO Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013, www.experian.com
- **TransUnion Security Freeze**, PO Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016, www.transunion.com
- **Equifax Security Freeze**, PO Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30348, www.equifax.com

You'll need to supply your name, address, date of birth, Social Security number and other personal information.

After receiving your freeze request, each credit bureau will provide you with a unique PIN (personal identification number) or password. Keep the PIN or password in a safe place. You will need it if you choose to lift the freeze.

How do I lift a freeze? A freeze remains in place until you ask the credit bureau to temporarily lift it or remove it altogether. If the request is made online or by phone, a credit bureau must lift a freeze within one hour. If the request is made by mail, then the bureau must lift the freeze no later than three business days after getting your request.

If you opt for a temporary lift because you are applying for credit or a job, and you can find out which credit bureau the business will contact for your file, you can save some time by lifting the freeze only at that particular credit bureau. Otherwise, you need to make the request with all three credit bureaus.

John Stokes Financial's mailing address is 2030 Main St #1300, Irvine, CA 92614 and phone number is (949) 477-1245.

Additional information for residents of the following states:

Maryland: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Maryland Attorney General's Office*, 200 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, MD 21202, 1-888-743-0023 / 1-410-576-6300, www.oag.state.md.us.

New York: You may contact and obtain information from these state agencies:

New York Department of State Division of Consumer Protection, One Commerce Plaza, 99 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12231-0001, 518-474-8583 / 1-800-697-1220, <http://www.dos.ny.gov/consumerprotection>

New York State Office of the Attorney General, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12224-0341, 1-800-771-7755, <https://ag.ny.gov>

North Carolina: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *North Carolina Attorney General's Office*, 9001 Mail Service Centre, Raleigh, NC 27699, 1-919-716-6000 / 1-877-566-7226, www.ncdoj.gov

Connecticut: You may contact and obtain information from your state attorney general at: *Connecticut Attorney General's Office*, 165 Capitol Ave, Hartford, CT 06106, 1-860-808-5318, www.ct.gov/ag

District of Columbia: You may contact and obtain information from your attorney general at: *Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia*, 441 4th Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, 1-202-727-3400, www.oag.dc.gov