

In touch...

A newsletter for clients of the Wilson Financial Group

What Happened?

It happened again. In 2017 it was Equifax and now it is Capital One. The intruders stole a huge quantity of data.

- Customer status data, e.g., credit scores, credit limits, balances, payment history, and Capital One contact information
- About 140,000 Social Security numbers of Capital One credit card customers
- About 80,000 linked bank account numbers or Capital One secured credit card customers

What Is the Impact?

Every person whose information was stolen is now at much higher risk for identity theft. Additionally, because of how widespread and alarming the issue is, we expect a lot of new malicious “phishing” emails to appear in the near future, trying to trick you into giving out your personal information under the guise of checking to see if your information was among the 100 million records stolen, or verifying who you are (supposedly in order to prevent identity theft), etc.

What Can I Do?

- You would be wise to consider “freezing” your credit report at the 4 credit bureaus listed at the end of this section, unless you are currently in the process of trying to obtain a loan, rent an apartment, buy a home, or apply for a job. Doing this is not free. It involves temporarily undoing it, and then redoing it when you do need someone to be able to check your credit report. Most likely there is an additional

fee to restore the “security freeze” or “credit freeze”. However, it is the best way to be absolutely sure identity thieves can’t use your stolen information to obtain credit in your name or otherwise blacken your financial reputation. The cost varies from state to state, but should not be more than \$60 for all 4 bureaus together, to set up the initial “freeze”.

- Never click a link which you receive in an email message which is at all suspicious, and do not visit a website to which you are directed in an email whose origin you can’t verify. Similarly, don’t give out your personal information over the phone to anyone who calls you, no matter how convincing they may be. If you think the call is legitimate, find out who they work for, look up the correct phone number for that company or agency, and then call them back.

- Listed below are the correct web site addresses of all 4 major credit bureaus. If you need to check anything with them or if you want to “freeze” your credit report to guarantee identity thieves can’t use your stolen information to open new accounts or lines of credit in your name, please start from these addresses:

- o <https://www.equifax.com>
(Equifax)
- o <https://www.experian.com>
(Experian)
- o <https://www.transunion.com>
(Transunion)
- o <https://www.innovis.com>
(Innovis)

Each of their websites has an online method for you to request a credit freeze, and generally also a phone number which you can call if you prefer to do this by telephone.

Applying a “security freeze” or “credit freeze” to your credit report can usually prevent identity theft before it happens; the potential creditor will be unable to verify any information provided by the thief, because the “freeze” will block the potential creditor from obtaining your credit report, leaving them with no option but to deny the application.



Coming Soon...
**Medicare
 Workshops**

We are also putting together a Medicare Educational Workshop for the fall before the annual enrollment period in October. If you are interested in attending, please let us know. I will also be covering the topic in our fall newsletters and on my radio show. If you would like more information email me at wfgpr@aol.com

FALL EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

9/9	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Pelham Library, 6-7 pm
9/17	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Pelham Library, 6-7 pm
9/26	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Wetumpka Civic Center, 6-7 pm
10/10	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Millbrook Civic Center, 6-7 pm
10/15	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Gardendale Civic Center, 6-7 pm
10/21	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Gardendale Civic Center, 6-7 pm
11/4	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Chelsea Community Center, 6-7 pm
11/7	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Chelsea Community Center, 6-7 pm
11/19	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Gadsden Civic Center, 6-7 pm

2020 EDUCATIONAL CLASSES

1/2/20	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Vestavia Civic Center, 11 am
1/2/20	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Trussville Civic Center, 6-7 pm
1/3/20	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Trussville Civic Center, 11 am
1/6/20	<i>Social Security Workshop</i> Vestavia Civic Center, 6-7 pm

ASK PHILIP WILSON RADIO SHOW

**Every Sunday from 12-12:30pm
you can hear Philip discuss
retirement topics.**

**Christian Talk Radio
WYDE/FM 101.1**

Wilson Financial Group is fee only
Alabama registered Investment Advisor.

Wilson Financial Group
314 LaPrado Circle
Birmingham, AL 35209
205-868-9297