



Adams County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On or about March 28, 2018, Schenck, who was conducting an information technology incident investigation, discovered questionable activity on the Adams County computer system and network. The investigation into the software as well as the computer system and network continued and the breach was confirmed in late June 2018. On June 29, 2018, Adams County received a comprehensive, forensic report that Personal Identification Information, Personal Health Information and/or Tax Intercept Information for approximately 258,120 individuals whose information was present on the Adams County computer network and system in the following departments: Veteran Service Office, Extension Office, Adams County Employees, Solid Waste, Health and Human Services, Child Support and Sheriff's Office from the time period of January 1, 2013 through March 28, 2018. There is evidence that there was unauthorized access of this information and/or unauthorized acquisition of this information. Unauthorized individual(s) obtained rights, users names and passwords by manipulation of certain software programs on the Adams County computer network and system that allowed them access to environments that were beyond their role and/or department. The access to PII, PHI and TII was beyond any authorized purpose to use, disclose or request such information.

A criminal investigation of this data and privacy breach by law enforcement agencies has been initiated and is currently on-going. Suspect(s) have been identified during the course of the investigation and the suspect(s) no longer have any access rights to view the entirety of the Adams County computer network and system. Further steps were taken to remedy the unauthorized access and there is limited access to the Adams County computer system and network. The suspect(s) accounts have been suspended and the suspect(s) no longer have access to the system. All software control measures manipulated during the operative time period have been disabled. Access to control and/or authorize access to the involved departments has been restricted and placed in the control of one designated individual. A long term solution to prevent any future breaches is currently being examined and will be instituted as soon as feasible in light of current design and costs.

The Notification Letter to all impacted individuals has been placed on the Adams County website at http://www.co.adams.wi.us/data_breach/index.php . Please follow the link to read the Notification Letter as well as how to make inquiries to Adams County as to whether you were impacted by the breach.