



STATE OF ILLINOIS
JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR
PRISONER REVIEW BOARD

PRB January 2026 PIPA FAQ

Is this legitimate or a scam?

- The letter you received is the result of a legitimate incident that occurred in December 2024.

What happened? / How did the data breach occur?

- As stated in the letter you received, personal information was inadvertently disseminated to outside parties through the Prisoner Review Board (PRB) database. These incidents were a result of responses to Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests seeking the database.

What information was leaked or compromised?

- The database included names and social security numbers.

What did the PRB do to respond to this incident?

- The PRB took a number of steps to implement a Corrective Action Plan:
 - o The PRB immediately initiated an investigation into the inadvertent distribution of the databases, contacted the parties who received them, requested these parties delete the databases and provided the requestors with a new database with the personal information properly removed. PRB did confirm that the parties deleted the databases.
 - o The PRB also provided notification, such as the letter you received, to all impacted parties as required under the **Illinois Personal Information Privacy Act (815 ILCS 530/1)**.
 - o As required by law, the PRB reported the incident to several entities including:
 - The Illinois General Assembly; the Office of the Attorney General; and the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, and Office of the Executive Inspector General.
 - o Finally, the agency re-engaged senior staff in additional FOIA training and established a FOIA Officer position. The FOIA Officer began working for the PRB shortly after this incident and is now solely tasked with reviewing and responding to FOIA requests, with the oversight of the PRB's Chief Legal Counsel.

Who disclosed the personal information?

- The PRB is not publicly releasing the identity of anyone involved in the breach.

Who received my/my family member's personal information?

- Please contact Kelly Knappmeyer, Executive Clemency Coordinator, via email at Kelly.Knappmeyer@illinois.gov to provide an email address or mailing address so



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that the PRB can send the FOIA requests to you. The FOIA will include the individuals who inadvertently received the information.

- *Alternatively*, you may submit a request to PRB.FOIA@illinois.gov and be sent the documents.

Can I have a copy of the FOIA request?

- Yes. Please provide Executive Clemency Coordinator, Kelly Knappmeyer, (Kelly.Knappmeyer@illinois.gov) with an email address or mailing address that the PRB can send the FOIA requests to you.
- *Alternatively*, you may submit a request to PRB.FOIA@illinois.gov and be sent the documents.

What next steps should I take now that I have been notified that my personal information was disseminated? / What should I do?

- The PRB encourages you to remain vigilant by looking out for incidents of identity theft and fraud, review your account statements, and monitor your credit reports for any suspicious activity.
- In addition to reviewing your credit reports, you may also want to place a fraud alert on your credit reports.

What credit monitoring services can I use to make sure my personal information has not been inappropriately used?

- Place a **fraud alert** on your credit report:
 - o Contact one of the three major consumer reporting agencies: *TransUnion*, *Equifax*, or *Experian*
 - o Fraud alerts serve as a red flag to potential credit grantors, indicating that they should ask for additional information to verify that the credit applicant is in fact you and *not* an imposter.
 - o Fraud alerts last for one year.
 - o A fraud alert does not impact your credit report, or your credit score derived from data within your credit report.
- Consider **security freezing** your credit reports
 - o You must contact all three major consumer reporting agencies (see above), separately, to request a freeze.
 - o A freeze prevents a potential credit grantor from seeing your credit report until verify your identity with individual consumer reporting agencies and confirm that it really is you, and not an imposter, applying for credit.
 - o Credit freezes are free.



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- A credit freeze does not impact your credit score, negatively or positively. It must be lifted to apply for a new line of credit or loan.
- **Review your credit reports**, and **immediately dispute any inaccurate entries** with both the consumer reporting agency and the creditor:
 - Visit annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228 to obtain your free reports. Normally, you are entitled to three free credit reports per year.
- Place transaction alerts with your bank.
- Take note of any unusual events and act promptly.
- To contact the consumer reporting agencies to place or obtain more information about a fraud alert or credit freeze:
 - Equifax
 - www.equifax.com/personal/
 - P.O. Box 105788, Atlanta, GA 30349
 - 1-800-525-6285 (fraud alert)
 - 1-888-298-0045 (credit freeze)
 - Experian
 - www.experian.com
 - P.O. Box 9554, Allen, TX 75013
 - 1-888-397-3742 (fraud alert)
 - 1-888-397-3742 (credit freeze)
 - TransUnion
 - www.transunion.com
 - P.O. Box 2000, Chester, PA 19016
 - 1-800-680-7289 (fraud alert)
 - 1-888-909-8872 (credit freeze)
- To contact the Federal Trade Commission for more information about a fraud alert or credit freeze, or to learn about additional identity theft resources:
 - www.ftc.gov
 - [Identity Theft Recovery Steps | IdentityTheft.gov](http://IdentityTheftRecoverySteps.IdentityTheft.gov)
 - Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. 20580
 - 1-877-382-4357 (Consumer Help Line)

Can credit monitoring agencies alert me of fraudulent activities that may have occurred more than a year ago considering this incident happened in 2024?



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- Unfortunately, most credit monitoring agencies do not have the ability to alert credit users of fraudulent activities that occurred over a year ago. But each individual creditor should ask the agency directly.

Do I need an attorney?

- Unfortunately, the PRB is unable to advise individuals on what legal actions they can or should pursue because our agency is a representative of the State.

Who can I speak to from the PRB's Legal Department about the breach?

- Please contact Kelly Knappmeyer, Executive Clemency Coordinator can be reached at:
 - o (217) 782-1615 or Kelly.Knappmeyer@illinois.gov