

# PRIVACY BREACH POLICY



# MAX FINANCIAL

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# 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Through its policy on the protection of personal information, MAX Financial Ltd. reaffirms its commitment to protect such information and to comply with the laws and regulations that govern their management.

Although we have implemented protection measures that we deem appropriate, we cannot claim to be absolutely protected from a breach regarding the protection of personal information.

In this context, we believe it necessary to adopt measures that are to be applied in the case of a violation (breach) regarding the protection of personal information.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this procedure are:

- to establish steps to be followed in the case of a violation (breach) of the protection of personal information, and,
- to define responsibilities.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

### A) Violation of privacy (breach of personal information)

Non-authorized access, suspected or actual, to personal information, through the non-authorized consultation, collection, use or communication of such. A violation of privacy can also occur when personal information held by MAX Financial Ltd. is:

- o stolen, lost or communicated by error and/or because of a procedural error or operational failure.

The present procedure must be applied for any violation, regardless of its gravity.

## **B) Affected person**

Any person who is concerned by the violation of privacy, in other words, the person who the personal information is about.

## **C) Interested person**

Any person who is indirectly concerned by the violation, be it MAX Financial Ltd., its clients, suppliers, agents, the public or any other organization.

## **D) Personal information**

Information concerning an individual that allows such individual to be identified.

## **E) Sensitive personal information**

Personal information regarding health status, government issued identification documents, bank accounts, credit card numbers or any other information of the same nature.

## **F) MAX Financial Ltd.**

Includes MAX Financial Ltd., its employees, management staff, advisors and representatives.

## 4. STEPS TO FOLLOW

There are four main steps to consider in the event of a breach, suspected or real, of data protection. The actions are described in more detail hereinafter.

Steps 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 described below are carried out simultaneously or quickly, one after the next, while step 4.4 includes recommendations for long-term solutions and prevention strategies. Each breach must be taken seriously and an investigation must be launched promptly.

### 4.1 Limiting the breach and preliminary assessment

As soon as an employee, a management staff member, an advisor or a representative of MAX Financial Ltd. learns of a breach or suspected breach, he must:

- a) Take all necessary means to limit the breach immediately by:
  - ending the non authorized practice;
  - retrieving the files;
  - shutting down the system from which the breach originates;
  - revoking or modifying the computer access codes;
  - correcting the deficiencies in the material and computer security systems.
  
- b) Advise the person responsible for the protection of personal information who will:
  - designate a qualified person to conduct the initial investigation;
  - conduct an investigation and/or determine if it is necessary to create a team made up of persons from the sector concerned by the breach, a member of senior management and the crisis coordinator designated pursuant to the Business continuity policy;
  - determine, alone or with the help of the team, which persons need to be advised of the incident, internally and potentially externally;
  - notify the Chief compliance officer;
  - notify the police if the breach arises from a theft or any other criminal activity;
  - thoroughly document the file and not destroy any evidence that could help determine the cause of the incident or to take necessary corrective measures.

### 4.2 Assessment of risk associated with the violation

To determine what other measures need to be taken immediately, we must assess the risk associated with the violation as concerns the personal information and take the following factors into account:

#### 4.2.1 The personal information in question

The nature of the information, how sensitive it is, and the foreseeable prejudice for the affected and interested persons will have to be taken into account when assessing the risk.

- What information elements are in question?
- In what measure is this information sensitive?

Ex. : a combination of personal information elements is generally more sensitive than a single item of personal information. The foreseeable prejudice for the affected persons.

- What is the context for the personal information in question?

Ex. : a paper boy's subscribers list can be sensitive information for the subscribers who asked for the service to be interrupted while they are away on vacation.

- Is the personal information suitably encoded, depersonalized or hard to access?
- How can the personal information be used?
- Can the information be used for fraud or other prejudicial means?

Ex. : theft or misappropriation of identity

A proper assessment of the type of personal information in question will help determine the measures to take, the persons to notify, including the appropriate privacy commissioner, as well as the manner in which to notify affected persons.

#### 4.2.2 Cause and extent of the breach

It is important to determine the cause of the breach to the extent possible. The person responsible for the protection of personal information and/or the team in charge of the investigation will need to verify the following:

- Is there a risk that non-authorized access to personal information will go on or that the information will be further compromised?
- What is the extent of non-authorized access to personal information (non-authorized collection, use or communication of such information) taking

into account the number and nature of possible recipients through mass media, social networks and Internet, and the likelihood that it will continue?

- Was the information stolen or lost? If it was stolen, can we determine if the information was the purpose of the theft?
- Was the personal information recovered?
- What measures were taken to mitigate prejudice and/or damages?
- Is this a systemic problem or an isolated incident?

#### 4.2.3 Affected persons

At this step, it is important to determine the three following aspects:

- Establish and quantify the amount of personal information touched by the breach;
- Establish who is affected by the breach (employees, clients, suppliers, etc.);
- Establish who is likely to have received this personal information.

#### 4.2.4 Foreseeable prejudice arising from the breach

The person responsible for the protection of personal information and/or the team in charge of the investigation assessing the risk of prejudice must take into account the reasonable expectations of both affected and interested persons with due diligence and consider the following elements:

- Is there a link between the unauthorized recipients and the persons affected by the information?
  - Ex. : Was the information communicated to an unknown person or someone suspected to be involved in criminal activity, which would suggest inappropriate use.
  - Ex. : Was the information communicated to a person who is known, trustworthy and would in all likelihood send back the information without using and/or sharing it.
- What could be the nature of the prejudice to the affected and interested persons?
  - Ex. : Risk to physical safety, identity theft, misappropriation of identity, financial loss, commercial loss, possible loss of employment, humiliation, injury to reputation, deterioration of relationship.

- What prejudice could the breach cause for MAX Financial Ltd.?

Ex. : loss of trust, loss of assets, financial risks, civil or criminal lawsuit (class action).

### **4.3 Notification of the breach**

Notification of the breach can be part of a risk mitigation strategy that could involve advantages for MAX Financial Ltd. as well as for the affected and interested persons. If the breach becomes a risk of prejudice to the affected and interested persons, they should be informed of such as quickly as possible so they can take necessary means to protect themselves. The problem lies in that it is difficult to determine which situations need to be reported.

Thus, every incident must be analyzed, case-by-case, in order to determine if the violation of privacy needs to be reported and, if applicable, to whom. In this case, the person responsible for the protection of personal information and/or the team in charge of the investigation must obtain upper management's approval before reporting the breach.

#### 4.3.1 Notice to affected and interested persons

In order to decide if the affected and interested persons need to be advised, we must take the following factors into account:

- What are the lawful and contractual obligations?
- What are the risks of prejudice for the affected and interested persons?
- Is it reasonable to suspect possible identity theft, misappropriation of identity or fraud?
- Is there a risk of personal injury for the affected person (being followed, victim of harassment)?
- Is there a risk of humiliation or injury to reputation (medical file, discipline record, mental health record) for the affected person?
- Can the affected person avoid or mitigate potential damage?

#### 4.3.2 How and when to advise affected and interested persons



At this stage, we must have drawn up a comprehensive list of the facts and have evaluated the risks in order to determine if it is necessary to advise affected and interested persons.

#### *4.3.2.1 When*

The affected and interested persons must be advised as quickly as possible. However, if the law enforcement officials are seized of the matter, it is preferable to ask them if the notification should be delayed in order to avoid compromising their investigation.

#### *4.3.2.2 How*

It is preferable to advise the persons directly, by telephone, mail and email, or in person. Indirect notification (website, public notice in newspapers, etc.) is not recommended, except if it is impossible to do it directly.

#### *4.3.2.3 Form and content of the notice*

The content and form of the notice will vary depending on the breach and the notification method chosen, and should contain the following elements, if applicable:

- a brief description of the breach and the moment when it happened;
- a description of the personal information in question;
- a brief description of the measures taken to control or reduce prejudice;
- the measures taken by MAX Financial Ltd. to help the persons and the measures that they can take for themselves in order to avoid or reduce the risk of prejudice and to further protect themselves (ex.: arrangements for credit watch; information on how to change one's social insurance number, health insurance number, driver's license; fraud prevention tools);
- information sources to help people protect themselves against identity theft and misappropriation of identity;
- contact information for a MAX Financial Ltd. employee who can answer questions or provide more information;
- reporting of the breach to the privacy commissioner;
- how to reach us to share their comments with us;
- give the contact information for the privacy commissioner.

#### *4.3.2.4 Other persons to advise*

The person responsible for the protection of personal information and/or the team in charge of the investigation will advise the appropriate privacy commissioner of all cases of violation, if necessary, so that he may respond to information enquiries from the public or to any potential complaint, or so he may give useful advice.

In order to evaluate the need to report a privacy violation, the following factors must be taken into account:

- any applicable law requiring the notification;
- the type of personal information in question, including the information that was communicated, if it can be used to commit a theft and/or a misappropriation of identity and if there is a reasonable risk of prejudice arising from the leak of this information, including non financial losses;
- the number of persons affected or concerned by the breach;
- whether the affected or interested persons have been advised or not;
- if we must reasonably deduce that the privacy commissioner's office will receive complaints or requests for information concerning the violation.

It is also important to consider advising the following persons, if necessary:

- the police, in case of theft or criminal activity;
- insurance companies or other pursuant to contractual obligations;
- professional corporations or other regulatory agencies, if standards so require;
- financial institutions, including insurance companies to the extent that their help is required to communicate with the affected or interested persons;
- any other person.

#### **4.4 Future prevention**

Once immediate measures have been taken to lessen the risk associated with the breach, the person responsible for the protection of personal information and/or the team in charge of the investigation must investigate the causes of the incident and establish a prevention plan, if necessary, taking the following elements into account:

- a verification of physical and technical security;
- a review of policies and procedures and their update;
- a review of training practices for employees;
- a review of provider practices.

Finally, a self-verification of the plan must be carried out at the end of the process to determine if it meets expectations or not.

## **5. RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **5.1 Management**

Members of the executive committee adopt the present procedure and name the person responsible for the protection of personal information as responsible for the application and implementation of the procedure.

### **5.2 Person responsible for the protection of personal information**

Coordinates all investigations regarding a breach and sets up an investigative team. Keeps management aware of activities on a regular basis and seeks their approval when necessary.

Ensures that the present procedure is delivered and communicated to all employees.

Produces an annual report of his activities and presents it to the executive committee.

### **5.3 Management staff members**

Management staff members respect the present procedure and ensure it is communicated to their employees.

They take all necessary means to limit, without delay, any violation they are made aware of and immediately report it to the person responsible for the protection of personal information. At his/her request, the management staff is part of the team in charge of the investigation.

### **5.4 Employees**

Employees respect and comply with the present procedure. They advise their superior immediately or, if they cannot, the person responsible for the protection of personal information, of any breach. They take necessary measures to limit it immediately. At the request of the person responsible for the protection of personal information, they are part of the team in charge of the investigation.

## **5.5 Team in charge of the investigation**

The persons appointed by the person responsible for the protection of personal information to be part of the investigation team must participate in each of the steps described in detail in the present policy.