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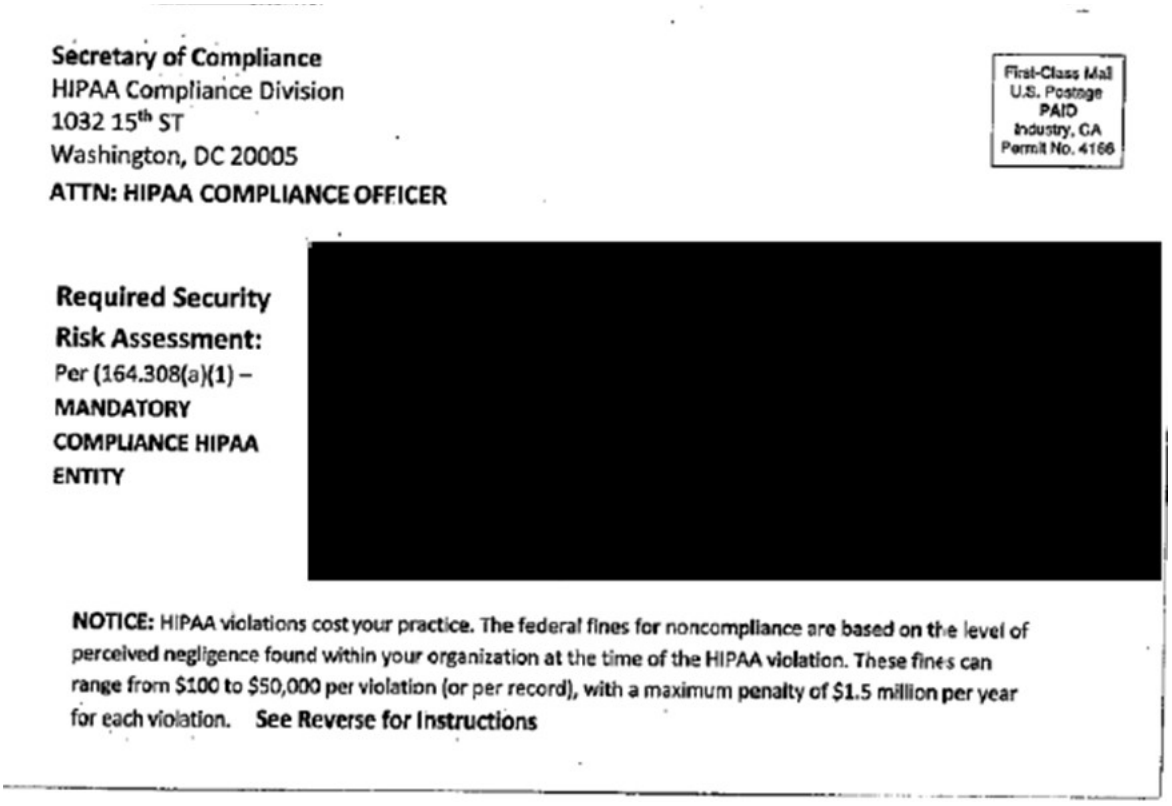
From: OCR HIPAA Privacy Rule information distribution <OCR-PRIVACY-LIST@LIST.NIH.GOV> on behalf of OS OCR PrivacyList, OCR (HHS/OS) <OCRPrivacyList@HHS.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 1:35 PM
To: OCR-PRIVACY-LIST@LIST.NIH.GOV
Subject: Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication

HHS Office for Civil Rights in Action

Alert: Postcard Disguised as Official OCR Communication
August 6, 2020

OCR has been made aware of postcards being sent to health care organizations disguised as official OCR communications, claiming to be notices of a mandatory HIPAA compliance risk assessment. The postcards have a Washington, D.C. return address, and the sender uses the title "Secretary of Compliance, HIPAA Compliance Division." The postcard is addressed to the health care organization's HIPAA compliance officer and prompts recipients to visit a URL, call, or email to take immediate action on a HIPAA Risk Assessment. The link directs individuals to a non-governmental website marketing consulting services.

The postcard below is not from HHS/OCR.



HIPAA covered entities and business associates should alert their workforce members to this misleading communication. This communication is from a private entity – it is **NOT** an HHS/OCR communication. Covered entities and business associates can verify that a communication is from OCR by looking for the OCR address or email address on any communication that purports to be from OCR. The addresses for OCR's HQ and Regional Offices are available on the OCR website at https://www.hhs.gov/ocr/about-us/contact-us/index.html, and all OCR email addresses will end in @hhs.gov. If organizations have additional questions or concerns, please send an email to: OCRMail@hhs.gov.

Suspected incidents of individuals posing as federal law enforcement should be reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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