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**ATTORNEY GENERAL SORRELL ISSUES  
SECURITY BREACH NOTIFICATION GUIDANCE**

Today Attorney General William H. Sorrell issued his Security Breach Guidance to provide businesses and state agencies with information about how to best comply with Vermont's Security Breach Notification law.

The Security Breach Notification law is designed to inform consumers when their personal information may be at risk, so they can take steps to help ensure that they will not become a victim of identity theft. It became effective on January 1, 2007, and requires businesses and state agencies to notify consumers in the event that the business or state agency suffers a "security breach", defined as the unauthorized acquisition or access of computerized data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of certain personal information maintained by the state agency or business.

The Guidance requires businesses and state agencies to take the following steps when they experience a security breach:

- Secure the data that has been compromised.
- Contact law enforcement to determine if a criminal investigation is warranted.
- Contact the Vermont Attorney General's Office.
- Notify consumers affected by the breach within 10 business days of the breach.

The Guidance also describes the information that should be contained in the notice to consumers, and it has a model letter to consumers that businesses and state agencies may use.

"My Security Breach Notification Guidance contains simple, common sense steps that businesses and state agencies should follow to be in compliance with the law," said Attorney General Sorrell. "The Guidance will ensure that any business or state agency that suffers from a security breach takes prompt action to notify consumers and to ensure that their information is not further compromised."

The Guidance is available on the Attorney General's website at <http://www.atg.state.vt.us/admin/redirect.php?ID=1293>.