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Mississippi Data Breach Law Goes into Effect on July 1

RIDGELAND, Miss., June 23, 2011—HORNE LLP, one of the nation's top 50 accounting and business advisory firms, informed clients today that Mississippi's data breach law goes into effect on July 1. The law requires businesses and government agencies to promptly notify any Mississippi resident when certain unencrypted electronic personal information in the possession of that organization has been intentionally acquired by an unauthorized person through a breach of security.

"If an organization has not done so already, it should implement security breach procedures as part of an information security policy and review their capabilities to detect and prevent data security breaches," said Tony Brooks, HORNE's Director of I.T. Assurance and Risk Services.

Personal information covered by this law includes a person's first name, or first initial and last name, plus social security number, driver's license number, state identification number, or credit/debit card number with access code or password.

The law allows organizations to forego notification if they determine that the breach will not likely result in harm to the affected individual. Failure to comply with the law is considered an unfair trade practice and may be enforced by the Mississippi Attorney General. There is no private right of action.

HORNE is one of the top 50 accounting and business advisory firms in the country, as reported by both *Public Accounting Report* (PAR) and *INSIDE Public Accounting* (IPA), and one of the top 10 accounting and business advisory firms in the Southeast. With offices in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana and Texas, the firm provides clients across the nation. For more information on HORNE LLP, visit www.horne-llp.com. To learn how HORNE can assist you in complying with this new law, please call Tony Brooks at 601.326.1281.

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