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WellPoint/Anthem Blue Cross Applicants Eligible for Class Action Lawsuit Settlement

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By: Administrator

Consumers who applied for health insurance coverage through WellPoint/Anthem Blue Cross before March 10, 2010 may be eligible for court-ordered benefits under the settlement of a class action lawsuit. The lawsuit accused the companies of storing applicants' social security numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, credit card numbers, and other confidential information on web-based servers without using proper safeguards such as user names, passwords, or encryption protection.

Though it's not clear if anyone illegally accessed the information, the court has ordered the companies to offer two years of free credit monitoring and ID theft to everyone who applied for health coverage with WellPoint/Anthem Blue Cross from August 2008 to March 2010. This package has an estimated value of \$238.80. Affected consumers were notified this summer by the settlement administrator and must apply for these benefits by September 28, 2011.

Consumers can also request reimbursement for identity theft losses and expenses if they likely resulted from the information disclosure; the deadline for that is longer. For details about the settlement, claim forms and other information go to www.anthembluecrosssecuritysettlement.com.