What Is a Breach Coach?

First and foremost, a breach coach is an attorney. As an attorney, your breach coach is there to provide you with legal advice regarding the risks and responsibilities your organization has in connection with a cybersecurity incident and, as such, all of your communications with your breach coach in connection with this advice are covered by the attorney-client privilege.

Second, a breach coach is an attorney who specializes in data privacy and cybersecurity law who has experience handling and responding to cybersecurity incidents. With this experience, your breach coach is there to guide you through the entire process of responding to a cybersecurity incident. They are there to use their experience and legal training to assist you in responding to a cybersecurity incident in the most expedient, efficient, and legally compliant way possible.

Breach coaches have relationships with IT forensics investigators, crisis communications professionals, notification and credit monitoring vendors, and other services and professionals that an organization may need when responding to a cybersecurity incident. Breach coaches also routinely work with insurance companies while responding to these incidents and so they know what resources insurance is likely to approve of in connection with a response, what information an insurance company will need in order to process your claim, and what concerns insurance will have with your response and can help you make sure that your response is best presented to insurance in connection with a claim. And, breach coaches will represent you in connection with any regulatory review or inquiry brought as a result of an incident.

Your breach coach is there to manage your organization's response to a cybersecurity incident—from the forensic investigation and ensuring that your organization's systems and environment is secure, to determining what compliance obligations your organization may have in connection with the incident, to advocating on your behalf in connection with local, state, federal, or even international regulatory inquiries into your incident. In short, a breach coach is there to provide experienced guidance, advice, and resources to you during a cybersecurity incident in order to identify and respond to any and all regulatory and compliance obligations that may have arisen as a results of the incident, to use their experience to make the response to that incident as efficient as possible, and to make sure that your organization is considering the law and its obligations when doing so.

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