

FOUNDERS FINANCIAL SECURITIES, LLC
CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY
April 14, 2025

INTRODUCTION

Founders Financial Securities, LLC (“FFS” or “the Firm”) is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as both a broker-dealer and an investment adviser and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ, and it is important for you to understand these differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at [Investor.gov/CRS](https://www.investor.gov/CRS), which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

WHAT INVESTMENT SERVICES AND ADVICE CAN YOU PROVIDE ME?

We offer both brokerage and investment advisory services to retail investors.

Investment Advisory Services: If you open an advisory account, you will pay an on-going asset-based fee at the end of each month or quarter for our services, based on a percentage of the value of the cash and investments in your advisory account. We will offer you advice on a regular basis. We will discuss your investment goals, design with you a strategy to achieve your investment goals, and regularly monitor your account on at least an annual basis, if not more frequently. We will contact you (by phone or e-mail) on a regular basis to discuss your portfolio. You can choose an account that allows us to buy and sell investments in your account without asking you in advance (a “**discretionary account**”) or we may give you advice and you decide what investments to buy and sell (a “**non-discretionary account**”). In non-discretionary accounts the retail investor makes the ultimate decision regarding the purchase or sale of investments. Our investment advice will cover a limited selection of investments. Other firms could provide advice on a wider range of choices, some of which might have lower costs. There are account minimums for investment advisory accounts which are described in full detail in our ADV Brochure. These minimum investment amounts vary depending on the strategy and are detailed in the agreements you receive with the account application. Your custodian will deliver account statements to you in paper or electronically.

Brokerage Services: Our brokerage services include buying and selling securities. If you open a brokerage account, you will pay a transaction-based fee, generally referred to as a commission. You may select investments, or we may recommend investments for your account. Your financial professional does not have discretion on your brokerage account, so the ultimate investment decision for your investment strategy and the purchase or sale of investments will be yours. We do not have account minimums. We can offer you additional services to assist you in developing and executing your investment strategy. We do not perform account monitoring activities or services for your account. We will deliver trade confirmations and account statements to you in paper. We offer cash, margin, and option accounts with a selection of investments, including but not limited to: mutual funds, individual securities, variable insurance products, options, bonds, brokered CDs, ETFs, REITs, BDCs. Other firms could offer a wider range of choices, some of which might have lower costs.

For additional information, please see our Disclosure Statement, ADV Brochure, which is available at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov, and our website: foundersfinancial.com.

Conversation Starters. Ask your financial professional —

- Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Should I choose a brokerage service? Should I choose both types of services? Why or why not?
- How will you choose investments to recommend to me?
- What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?

WHAT FEES WILL I PAY?

Investment Advisory Services: The amount paid to our firm and your financial professional is based on a percentage of the value of the cash and investments in your advisory account, and generally does not vary based on the type of investments we select on your behalf. The asset-based fee reduces the value of your account and will be deducted from your account on a monthly or quarterly basis. You may pay a transaction fee (also known as a ticket charge) when we buy and sell an investment for you. The fees you pay are negotiable so you may pay more for the same service than another investor. The amount you pay will depend, for example, on the services you receive and the amount of assets in your account. You will also pay fees to a broker-dealer or bank that will hold your assets (called “custody”). You pay our fee even if you do not buy or sell. Your financial professional is permitted to recommend the use of third-party money managers that offer **wrap fee programs**. Wrap fee programs are when you pay a specified fee for the overall portfolio management services and trade execution. Wrap fee programs differ from other programs in that the fee structure for wrap fee programs is intended to be all-inclusive, whereas non-wrap fee programs, like the asset-based fee program noted above, will charge separately for trade execution and administrative fees in addition to the asset management fee.

Brokerage Services: You will pay a fee every time you buy or sell an investment in the form of a ticket charge. The ticket charge will vary depending on the type of security purchased or sold. In addition to a ticket charge, you could be charged a commission by your financial professional. The commission charge is at the discretion of the financial professional and is based on the specific transaction and not the value of your account. With investments, such as bonds, this fee might be part of the price you pay for the investment (called a “mark-up” or “mark down”). With mutual funds, this fee (typically called a “sales charge”) reduces the value of your investment. Some mutual funds offer “break points” depending on how much you invest, which could decrease the amount of sales charge you pay. Some investments (such as mutual funds and variable annuities) impose additional fees that will reduce the value of your investment over time. Also, with certain investments such as variable annuities, you may have to pay fees such as “surrender charges” to sell the investment. You may pay additional fees, such as custodian fees, account maintenance fees, account termination fees, transfer fees, and account inactivity fees. The more transactions in your account, the more fees you will be charged. We therefore have an incentive to encourage you to engage in transactions. From a cost perspective, you may prefer a transaction-based fee if you do not trade often or if you plan to buy and hold investments for longer periods of time.

In both Advisory Accounts and Brokerage Accounts:

You will pay fees and charges whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and charges will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and charges you are paying.

For more detailed information about the fees and costs you will pay, please review the applicable prospectus and the information provided in our Disclosure Statement, ADV Brochure which is available at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov, and our website: foundersfinancial.com.

Conversation Starters. Ask your financial professional —

- Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?

WHAT ARE YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS TO ME WHEN ACTING AS MY INVESTMENT ADVISER? HOW ELSE DOES YOUR FIRM MAKE MONEY AND WHAT CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DO YOU HAVE?

When we provide you with a recommendation as your broker-dealer or act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the investment advice we provide you. Here are some examples to help you understand what this means:

The more assets you have in an advisory account, including cash, the more you will pay us. We therefore have an incentive to increase the assets in your account in order to increase our fees.

Your financial professional can receive more money by advising you to purchase certain investments. Both your financial professional and FFS will typically earn more money by advising you to invest in our proprietary Freedom Capital Management Services than if invested elsewhere. These create a conflict of interest.

Your financial professional could favor his/her larger clients when deciding whom to contact regarding investment decisions in times of a volatile or active market.

Your financial professional is allowed to negotiate the fee he/she charges in **advisory accounts**, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services.

Your financial professional is compensated in **advisory accounts** by charging a fee based on a percentage of the value of your account, rather than for each transaction you make. This could result in higher compensation to your financial professional than would be paid in a non-advisory account.

We have relationships with product sponsors such as mutual fund, variable annuity, and REIT/BDC companies that financially support events hosted by our firm.

Your financial professionals are compensated on a tiered "grid" payout structure. The greater the amount of assets your financial professional manages the greater his/her percentage of compensation. A conflict exists when your financial professional is incentivized to have more clients and manage more assets because of the time and complexity required to meet all of client's needs, understand all of the product sold, and what product sales commissions are in each client's best interest.

You may pay a 12b-1 fee which is a fee charged by a mutual fund company to pay for their marketing fee, custodial, and administrative fee. Part of this fee is received by the financial professional.

Your financial professional compensation varies depending on the product in which you invest. For example: your financial professional may receive greater compensation investing your money in a variable annuity rather than in a mutual fund or buying and selling individual securities rather than purchasing a mutual fund. In addition, your financial professional could receive further compensation for additional riders/benefits added to a variable annuity.

Our financial professionals providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as insurance agents and will earn compensation for selling insurance products, which is in addition to the advisory fee. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to you for the purpose of generating compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with the Firm.

In **brokerage accounts**, your financial professional receives transaction-based compensation, such

that the more trades in your account, the more fees are charged to you, so there is an incentive to have you to trade often.

For additional information, please see our Disclosure Statement, ADV Brochure, which is available at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov and our website: foundersfinancial.com.

Conversation Starters. Ask your financial professional —

- How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?

HOW DO YOUR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS MAKE MONEY?

In **Investment Advisory Accounts**, your financial professional receives a percentage of the asset-based fee described above, based on a tiered “grid” payout structure, which means your financial professional will receive a greater percentage of the asset-based fee as the revenue generated by your financial professional increases. This creates a conflict of interest because your financial professional is incentivized to have more clients and manage more assets to generate more revenue to increase his/her payout percentage.

In **Brokerage Accounts**, your financial professional receives a percentage of the transaction-based fees described above, based on a tiered “grid” payout structure, which means your financial professional will receive a greater percentage of the transaction-based fees as the revenue generated by your financial professional increases. This creates a conflict of interest because your financial professional is incentivized to have more clients and conduct more transactions to generate more revenue to increase his/her payout percentage.

DO YOU OR YOUR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS HAVE LEGAL OR DISCIPLINARY HISTORY?

Yes, please visit Investor.gov/CRS for a free and simple search tool to research us and our financial professionals. Please also see our Disclosure Statement, ADV Brochure, which is available at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov, and our website: foundersfinancial.com

Conversation Starters. Ask your financial professional —

- As a financial professional, do you have any disciplinary history? For what type of conduct?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about our services or if you would like additional, up-to-date information or a copy of this disclosure, please call us at 888-523-1162. Please also see our Disclosure Statement, ADV Brochure, which is available at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov, and our website: foundersfinancial.com

Conversation Starters. Ask your financial professional —

- Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?



Regulation Best Interest Disclosure

This guide summarizes important information concerning the scope and terms of the brokerage services we offer and details the material conflicts of interest that arise through our delivery of brokerage services to you. We encourage you to review this information carefully, along with any applicable account agreement(s) and disclosure documentation you may receive from us. For information specific to the Investment Advisory services offered through Founders Financial Securities, LLC ("FFS"), please review our ADV 2A brochure.

As you review this information, we would like to remind you that we are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a broker dealer and an investment advisor, providing both brokerage services and investment advisory services. Our brokerage services are the primary focus of this guide. For more information on our investment advisory services and how they differ from brokerage, please review the Customer Relationship Summary (or Form CRS). Our Form CRS contains important information about the types of services we offer, both brokerage and investment advisory, along with general information related to compensation, conflicts of interest, disciplinary action and other reportable legal information.

Please carefully review and consider the information in each section below.

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BROKERAGE SERVICES

Brokerage Account Types

We offer many different brokerage account types including, but not limited to, individual and joint accounts, custodial accounts, estate and trust accounts, individual retirement accounts and other types of retirement accounts as outlined in our account agreement(s). You should refer to our account agreement(s) for more information concerning available account types or speak with your financial professional.

Incidental Brokerage Services, Recommendations and Account Monitoring

It is important for you to understand that when our financial professional makes a brokerage recommendation to you, we are obligated to ensure the recommendation is in your best interest, considering reasonably available alternatives, and based on your stated investment objective, risk tolerance, liquidity needs, time horizon, financial needs, and other financial information you provide us. You may accept or reject any recommendation. It is also your responsibility to monitor the investments in your brokerage account, and we encourage you to do so regularly. ***We do not commit to provide on-going monitoring of your brokerage account.*** If you prefer on-going monitoring of your account or investments, you should speak with a financial professional about whether an investment advisory relationship is more appropriate for you.

Within your brokerage account, we may also provide other incidental services such as research reports, and recommendations to buy, sell, or hold assets. When we make a securities recommendation, investment strategy recommendation or recommendation to rollover assets from your Qualified Retirement Plan (QRP) to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), the recommendation is made in our capacity as a broker-dealer unless otherwise stated at the time of the recommendation. Any such statement will be made orally to you. Moreover, when we act in a brokerage capacity, we do not agree to enter into a fiduciary relationship with you.

Please also consider that from time to time we may provide you with additional information and resources to assist you with managing your brokerage account. This may include but is not limited to educational resources, sales and marketing materials, performance reports, asset allocation guidance, and/or periodic brokerage account reviews. When we offer these services and information, we do so as a courtesy to you. These activities are not designed to monitor specific investment holdings in your brokerage account, they do not contain specific investment recommendations about investment holdings, and you should not consider them a recommendation to trade or hold any particular securities in your brokerage account. Upon your request, we will review such information and reports with you and may provide you with investment recommendations, but we are not under a specific obligation to do so.

Clearing and Direct Account Services

For clearing, we have entered into an agreement with Pershing (also referred to herein as "Clearing Agent") to carry your account and provide certain back office functions. We and the Clearing Agent share responsibilities with respect to your account that was/will be delivered to you upon opening your account. Please refer to your account opening documents for more information on how such responsibilities have been allocated between us.

For direct accounts, your financial professional purchases the investment directly with the product sponsor, which is responsible for sending you confirmations and account statements. We and the product sponsor share responsibilities with respect to your account that was/will be delivered to you upon opening your account. Please refer to the product sponsor's account opening documents for more information on how responsibilities have been allocated between us.

Understanding Risk

It is important for you to understand that all investment recommendations and activities involve risk, including the risk that you may lose your entire principal. Further, some investments involve more risk than other investments. Higher-risk investments may have the potential for higher returns but also for greater losses. The higher your "risk tolerance," meaning the amount of risk or loss you are willing and able to accept in order to achieve your investment goals, the more you may decide to invest in higher-risk investments offering the potential for greater returns. We align risk tolerances with investment needs to offer you different investment objectives from which to choose (see below). You should select the investment objective and risk tolerance best aligned with your brokerage account goals and needs.

We categorize your investment objective in five ways: Aggressive Growth, Growth, Growth and Income, Income, and Capital Preservation. Each of these categories is defined as follows:

- **Aggressive Growth:** Investment portfolio that seeks greater than average potential gains or rapid growth of capital through securities and investment techniques involving substantial risks and generally higher transaction costs.
- **Growth:** Investment portfolio primarily focused on capital appreciation with little emphasis on income through dividends and interest.
- **Growth and Income:** Investment portfolio that seeks both capital appreciation as well as dividend and interest income.
- **Income:** Investment portfolio focused on the continued receipt and steady stream of income through dividends and interest with little emphasis on capital appreciation.
- **Capital Preservation:** Investment portfolio focused on maintaining the accounts value through investments techniques involving minimal risk.

To further assist you in determining the categories of investments that would be consistent with your investment objectives described above, we offer the following guide. The types of securities listed in this table include, but are not limited to, individual listings, ETFs, and mutual funds comprised of those securities.

Aggressive Growth – Equities

Growth – Equities

Income – Bonds (government, corporate, high yield), dividend-paying equities, REITs, BDCs

Capital Preservation – CDs, Fixed annuities, money market mutual funds

We consider risk tolerance as a measurement of your willingness to accept portfolio volatility and the risk of loss based on the securities held in your account. We categorize your account risk tolerance in four categories: low, moderate, moderate plus, and high.

Each of these categories is defined as follows:

- **Low Risk Tolerance:** If you have a low risk tolerance you value keeping your invested amount over seeking growth of the assets. You are comfortable accepting lower returns for a higher degree of liquidity and/or stability. Typically, low risk investors primarily seeks to minimize risk and losses.
- **Moderate Risk Tolerance:** If you have a moderate risk tolerance you value reducing risks and enhancing returns equally. You are willing to accept modest risks to seek higher long-term returns. A Moderate Risk investor may endure a short-term loss of principal and lower degree of liquidity in exchange for long-term appreciation.
- **Moderate Plus Risk Tolerance:** If you have a moderate plus risk tolerance investor you value higher long-term returns and are willing to accept considerable risk. You are comfortable with short-term fluctuations in your account value in exchange for seeking long term growth of your assets. The moderate plus risk investor is willing to endure larger short-term losses of principal in exchange for the potential of higher long-term returns. Liquidity is a secondary concern to a Moderate Plus Risk investor.
- **High Risk Tolerance:** If you have a high-risk tolerance you value maximizing returns and are willing to accept substantial risk. This investor believes maximizing long-term returns is more important than protecting your assets. A high-risk investor may endure extensive volatility and significant losses. Liquidity is generally not a concern to a high-risk investor

CASH Brokerage and Margin Brokerage Accounts

We provide brokerage services through either a cash brokerage account or margin brokerage account, based on your eligibility and selection. In a cash brokerage account, you must pay for your purchases in full at the time of purchase. In a margin brokerage account, you must eventually pay for your purchases in full, but you may borrow part of the purchase price from our clearing firm, Pershing¹. This is generally referred to as a “margin loan.” The portion of the purchase price that is loaned to you is secured by securities in your account, also referred to as “collateral.” You will incur interest costs

as a result of your margin activity. While many securities are eligible to be used as collateral for a margin loan, some assets are not available for margin collateral purposes.

Given that a margin-enabled brokerage account has specific eligibility requirements, unique costs, and governing regulatory requirements, our default brokerage option is our cash brokerage account. You must execute a separate margin agreement before engaging in margin brokerage activity. Included with your margin agreement is a copy of the Margin Disclosure Statement. This statement contains important information you should understand and consider before establishing a margin brokerage relationship with us. For more information on our margin brokerage services, contact your financial professional.

Account Minimums and Activity Requirements

There is no minimum initial account balance required to open a brokerage account with us. However, if you either fail to fund your account or do not return account opening documents as required, your account will be closed. In addition, some types of brokerage accounts have minimum account activity requirements and/or minimum on-going balance requirements that must be maintained, or your brokerage account will be closed. These requirements are detailed in the account agreement(s) you receive when/if you open your brokerage account.

You should also understand that our financial professional may have their own minimum account balance requirements for the brokerage accounts they service. For example, a dedicated financial professional may choose to service only those brokerage account clients who satisfy account-specific or total household asset conditions. Minimum asset requirements are disclosed to you orally by your financial professional.

Distinction Between Holding Products Directly with Sponsor or in a Brokerage Account:

Exchange traded securities (i.e., stocks, bonds, options, ETFs) are only available for purchase in a brokerage account maintained at our custodian Pershing, which sends you confirmations and account statements. Other securities, including mutual funds, variable annuities, and alternative investments, may be owned in either a brokerage account or directly held with the product sponsor ("directly held").

With a directly held account, your financial professional purchases the investment directly with the product sponsor, which is responsible for sending you confirmations and account statements. In a brokerage account, you can hold several different types of securities, which can be more efficient because all the securities are included on one statement and you receive one Form 1099. With a directly held account, you may only hold products issued by that product sponsor. Brokerage accounts typically have annual maintenance fees and fees for transactions and other services while directly held accounts typically do not charge such fees, which makes directly held accounts less expensive.

There are many important differences between brokerage and directly held accounts. We do not require your financial professional to open a particular type nor do we incent the financial professional to open one type over the other. Talk to your financial professional about which type of account is best for you.

BROKERAGE AND DIRECT ACCOUNT FEES AND COMPENSATION

Transaction-Based Fees

You will pay transaction-based fees for trades you decide to enter into, such as buying and selling stocks, bonds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), mutual funds, annuity contracts, exercising options and other investment purchases and sale. These transaction-based fees are generally referred to as a “commission,” “mark up,” “sales load,” or a “sales charge.” Transaction-based fees are based on a host of factors, including, but not limited to:

- Underlying product selection
- Your brokerage service model and account type
- Size of your transaction and/or overall value of your account
- Frequency of your trade activity
- Available discounts and/or fee waivers

Account and Service Fees

You will pay fees for various operational services provided to you through your account. These fees are set at least annually and communicated to you through information included in your account statement and other notifications. These fees do not apply to all account types and may be waived under certain conditions.

You should understand that based on the brokerage service model you choose, the same or similar products, accounts and services may vary in the fees and costs charged to you. Information concerning fees are detailed in the account agreement(s) you receive when/if you open your brokerage account.

How We Are Compensated

Both we and your financial professional receive direct and indirect compensation in connection with your account(s). Direct compensation is taken directly from the account based on each transaction. Indirect compensation is compensation paid in ways other than directly from the account and may impact the value of the associated investments in your account. Below in the section titled Conflicts of Interest, we describe the conflicts that are created by direct and indirect compensation, and in the section titled Brokerage Products, we describe the compensation that we receive in connection with various investments that may be available to you. In many cases, the descriptions that follow refer you to a prospectus or offering documents.

Fee for Termination of Services

You will be charged a fee to close/terminate a qualified account (this includes IRA accounts). You will also be charged an account transfer fees. We do not receive any part of these fees.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest is a situation in which we engage in a transaction, recommendation, or other activity where our economic interest is materially benefited by your acceptance of our recommendation or purchase of an investment. The mere presence of a conflict of interest does not imply that harm to your interest will occur, but it is important that we acknowledge and disclose the presence of conflicts. Our regulatory obligations require that we remove where reasonable, and at a minimum mitigate and disclose conflicts of interest. In addition, we establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to address conflicts of interest associated with our recommendations to you.

We are committed to taking appropriate steps to eliminate or at least mitigate and disclose to you conflicts of interest to ensure we act in your best interest when providing brokerage or direct account recommendations. Below you will find additional information related to our conflicts of interest. This information is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of our conflicts, but generally describes those conflicts that are material to your brokerage or direct account relationship. In addition to this disclosure, conflicts of interest are disclosed to you in your account agreement(s), Customer Relationship Summary ("CRS") forms, disclosure documents, product specific agreements or prospectuses and other information we make available to you.

Restrictions Based on Licensing

A financial professional's ability to offer individual products and services depends on his/her licensing. A financial professional holding a Series 6 license is limited to mutual funds, 529 plans, Unit Investment Trusts ("UITs") and variable annuity contracts. A financial professional holding a Series 7 license can recommend all of the investment products a Series 6 representative, as well as individual stocks, bonds, exchange traded funds ("ETFs"), and alternative investments (real estate investment trusts ("REITs"), limited partnerships ("LPs"), 1031 exchanges, Business Development Companies ("BDCs"), and private equity, subject to firm limitations as described below in the section titled Limited Product Shelf. A financial professional may also hold either the Series 65 or 66 licenses or have attained a certification such as the Certified Financial Professional certificate, which enables them to offer advisory services.

You should ask your financial professional about the investment products or services he/she is licensed or qualified to sell, and his/her ability to service investments that you transfer to FFS from another firm. You should also review the licenses held by your financial professional by visiting the FINRA BrokerCheck system at <http://brokercheck.finra.org>. Licensing presents a conflict in that individuals have an incentive to offer you products or services that correspond to their licensing. We disclose this conflict to you and mitigate it by reviewing recommendations made to you by our financial professionals to ensure these recommendations are in your best interest.

Limited Product Shelf

While your financial professional may be licensed to sell certain investment products, FFS has a limited product shelf. There are literally thousands of available investment products that could be recommended, but FFS does not offer all of them for sale to clients. Moreover, the scope of products and services we offer may be more limited than what is available through other financial service firms. FFS and financial professionals only offer investment products from investment sponsors with whom FFS has entered into selling and distribution agreements. Other firms may offer products and services not available through FFS. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, precious metals, oil and gas partnerships, or commodities. This presents a conflict since not all investment products or services available on the market can be recommended and sold through FFS and your financial professional.

Compensation Conflicts

Our conflicts of interest are typically the result of compensation structures and other financial arrangements between us, our financial professionals, our clients, and third parties. Securities rules allow for us and our financial professionals to earn compensation when we provide brokerage or direct account services to you. However, the compensation that we and our financial professionals receive from you varies based upon the product or service you purchase, which creates a financial incentive to recommend investment products and services that generate greater compensation to us.

Transaction-based conflicts

In your brokerage or direct account you pay certain fees (commissions and sales charges) and ticket charges in connection with the buying and selling of each investment product, including mutual funds, variable annuities, alternative investments, exchange traded funds, equity securities, and bonds. Where these fees apply, the more transactions you enter into, the more compensation that we and your financial professional receive. This compensation creates a conflict whereby we have an incentive for us to recommend that you buy and sell, rather than hold, these investments. We also

have an incentive to recommend that you purchase investment products that carry higher fees, instead of products that carry lower fees or no fees at all.

Financial professionals are compensated in a variety of ways based on the percentage of revenue generated from sales of products and services to clients and/or total assets under advisement, including brokerage account activity. This compensation may vary by the product or service associated with a brokerage or direct account recommendation. In addition to upfront-transaction based compensation, some products feature on-going residual or "trail" or 12b-1 payments. Thus, financial professionals are incentivized to recommend products that have higher fees as well as those with on-going payments.

Financial professionals have an incentive to recommend you rollover assets from a QRP to a brokerage IRA because of the compensation they will receive. We maintain policies and procedures designed to ensure that rollover recommendations are in your best interest.

Tiered Compensation Structure

Typically, a financial professional's payout schedule (periodically adjusted by us at our discretion) increases with revenue and asset levels.

As a result, financial professionals have an incentive to provide brokerage and direct account recommendations that result in selling more investment products and services, as well as investment products and services that carry higher fees. Financial professional also have an incentive to provide brokerage recommendations to gather more assets under management and to increase brokerage and direct account trading activity.

Your financial professional receives a percentage of the transaction-based fees described above, based on a tiered "grid" payout structure, which means your financial professional will receive a greater percentage of the transaction-based fees as the revenue generated by your financial professional increases. This creates a conflict of interest because your financial professional is incentivized to have more clients and conduct more transactions to generate more revenue to increase his/her payout percentage.

Third Party Payments

The total amount of payments we receive varies from product to product and varies with respect to the third-party sponsoring the products we recommend. We have an incentive to recommend investment products and services that generate greater payments to us. This compensation generally represents an expense embedded in the investment products and services that is borne by investors. The most common of Third-Party Payments is called Trail Compensation. This is a form of ongoing compensation from Direct Account and Brokerage Product Sponsors that will be received by us and shared with our financial professionals. This compensation (commonly known as trails, service fees, or Rule 12b-1 fees in the case of mutual funds) is typically paid from the assets of the investment product under a distribution or servicing arrangement and is calculated as an annual percentage of invested assets.

In addition, we have relationships with certain product sponsors such as mutual fund, variable annuity, and REIT/BDC companies that financially support events hosted by FFS.

Training and Education Support

We offer certain persons, including issuers of securities and/or sponsors of insurance products, the opportunity to communicate with our financial professionals via our electronic platforms and, in some cases, in person. The purpose is to educate on financial products and resources and make us aware of how these financial products could potentially help a client achieve their investment goals. These companies pay us a fee for these opportunities. The opportunity that companies have to communicate with us, could influence investment recommendations because the company has an opportunity to communicate directly with us and our financial professionals that other service providers and investment managers may not have. There are no requirements that we recommend the investment products or services of these companies. There are no additional financial incentives, bonuses, or additional compensation to your financial professional to recommend these companies products.

Other Financial Professional Activities

Your financial professional has access to insurance products through Founders Financial Securities Insurance Agency, an affiliate of FFS ("FFS Ins. Agency"), Founders Financial Insurance Network, an affiliate of FFS, and other direct insurance providers. As such, FFS Ins. Agency distributes products and does not open or maintain customer accounts or hold customer funds or securities.

Some financial professionals are also licensed independent insurance agents and will recommend or sell clients insurance products. Clients are under no obligation to purchase these products from the broker/dealer. In their separate capacities as an independent insurance agent, the financial professional will be able to implement insurance transactions for clients that have separate and typical commission compensation.

Some financial professionals maintain outside business activities such as practicing as Certified Public Accountants ("CPA") and will recommend or offer accounting and tax advice and/or services. Clients are under no obligation to purchase these services from the financial professional. In their separate capacities as CPAs, these individuals will be able to provide accounting and tax services for clients for separate and typical compensation. Such services are not services of the broker/dealer. Similarly, financial professionals may conduct other outside business activities for compensation that do not relate to their role as a representative of the broker/dealer.

INVESTMENT CHOICES AVAILABLE WITHIN BROKERAGE ACCOUNTS

Mutual Funds

Mutual funds are professionally managed portfolios of securities that pool the assets of individuals and organizations to invest toward a common objective, such as current income or long-term growth. All mutual funds are offered for sale through a prospectus, which you should read prior to investing in a fund. The prospectus describes the sales charges and expenses applicable to the fund and it describes the fund's investment objective.

All mutual funds charge investment management fees and ongoing expenses for operating the fund and these expenses can vary by the share class purchased. The most common types of mutual funds are Class A and Class C shares and FFS only offers these two types in commissionable direct held or brokerage accounts. Some funds offer no-load share classes available in advisory programs. Funds may also offer special share classes for qualified retirement plans. The key distinctions between share classes relate to costs: the sales charge and operating expenses. Your financial professional's compensation is determined by the type of share class purchased.

The mutual fund company pays FFS a commission at the time you make your investment with the amount varying depending on the share class purchased and any applicable break point discounts. FFS pays a portion of this commission to your financial professional. The product sponsor also pays us an ongoing distribution and/or service fee (12b-1 fees) that are paid out of fund assets for as long as you own your shares and we are the broker of record. Your financial professional receives a portion of these trail payments. Please ask your financial professional how he or she is paid for mutual fund transactions.

Money Market Mutual Funds

A money market mutual fund contains short term debt and monetary investments and has an objective of maintaining a stable net asset value of \$1 per share. There are no sales charges when you buy a money market fund. There typically is no fee to redeem money fund shares unless the fund's board has determined to impose liquidity fees in certain circumstances. The fund's prospectus contains information regarding the fund's objectives, risks, investments, fees and expenses. FFS does not charge commissions or fees for the purchase or liquidation of money market funds. We do receive 12b-1 fees for distribution services we provide and share these with your financial professional.

Certain mutual funds may pay FFS additional amounts known as revenue sharing payments, which are based on overall sales and/or assets on behalf of the fund or its fund family.

Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)

An ETF is an exchange-traded security combining attributes of conventional stocks with mutual funds. ETFs are pooled investment funds that offer investors an interest in a professionally managed portfolio of securities that track an index, a commodity or a basket of assets. ETFs may be actively managed or passively-managed and they trade on stock exchanges where they will experience price changes throughout the day as they are bought and sold.

We act as an agent for your ETF transactions, which means we send your order to an external venue to buy or sell shares of the ETF. You will pay a ticket charge on each transaction. You could also pay a commission, which we share with your financial professional. ETFs also carry built-in operating expenses that affect the ETF's return. For more information on the fees and expenses of the ETF, please refer to the applicable offering documents and/or prospectus.

Closed-end Funds

A closed-end fund is a type of investment company that is typically actively managed. Closed-end funds have a fixed number of shares that are publicly traded on an exchange. The share prices fluctuate based on investor supply and demand and there is no requirement that the share price match the Net Asset Value (NAV). Closed-end funds could trade at a discount or premium to NAV. Open end mutual funds, on the other hand, are priced each day at NAV. Closed-end funds are not required to redeem shares.

We act as an agent for your closed-end fund transactions. This means we send your order to an exchange to buy or sell shares of the closed-end fund. You will pay a ticket charge on each transaction. You could also pay a commission based on the amount of the transaction, which we share with your financial professional. Closed-end funds also carry built-in operating expenses that affect the fund's return.

Unit Investment Trusts (UITs)

A UIT is an SEC-registered investment company that invests in a fixed, diversified group of professionally selected securities according to a specific investment strategy. Unlike open end mutual funds, the securities within the UITs portfolio generally are not actively traded and instead maintains more of a buy and hold approach to investing. As a holder of a UIT you own a portion of the securities in the trust.

UITs have a set termination date where the portfolio securities are sold and the proceeds are paid to investors. Prior to the UIT's termination, a holder may redeem shares by tendering back to the sponsor. The amount received will be based on the current value at the date of redemption, which may be less than the original amount invested. UIT sponsors continuously offer new series of UITs, which makes it possible for investors to purchase a new series of the UIT upon expiration of the current UIT.

In brokerage accounts, you typically pay either a front-end sales charge or a combination of front-end and deferred sales charges. The deferred sales charge is usually deducted from your account in periodic installments. We receive a portion of that sales charge from the provider sponsoring the UIT. The trust sponsor may also charge a "creation and development" fee (C&D) to compensate for the costs of organizing and offering the portfolio. UITs have built-in operating expenses that affect their return. Details on the operating expenses and organizational fees are included in each UIT's prospectus.

Variable Annuities

Variable annuities are investment contracts issued by insurance companies into which the buyer makes a lump-sum payment or series of payments. At the client's direction, the insurer allocates the client's payments/contributions to investment options, or sub-accounts. Sub-accounts are comprised of stocks, bonds, or other investments. When you invest in a variable annuity, any growth in the value of the underlying sub-accounts is not taxed until you take distributions, at which point you pay taxes on any gains. Withdrawals before the age of 59 ½ may also incur a federal tax penalty. Please refer to the prospectus for information specific to the variable annuity you purchase.

Fees and charges: Because variable annuities possess protection features, they have fees and/or expenses that are not found in other investment products. The fees or expenses that you pay vary depending on the terms and share class of the annuity purchased. The most common fees are as follows:

- **Surrender charge** - Most variable annuities do not have an initial sales charge. However, insurance companies usually assess a surrender charge, often called a contingent deferred sales charge (CDSC), to an annuity owner who liquidates a contract or makes a withdrawal in excess of the free withdrawal provision (typically 10%) during the surrender charge period specified in the prospectus. The CDSC typically decreases over several years. Please read the prospectus carefully with regard to the applicable surrender charges.
- **Mortality & Expense Risk charge (M&E)** - The insurance company charges you this fee for the insurance risks it assumes by providing you guaranteed¹ future payments and basic death benefits. In addition, this fee helps offset the cost of commissions paid.
- **Administrative fees** - These fees cover administrative costs associated with servicing the annuity, including the cost of transferring funds, tracking purchase payments, issuing confirmations and statements, recordkeeping, and customer service.
- **Contract maintenance fee** - This is an annual flat fee, approximately \$25 or \$30 a year, to keep the contract active. This fee may be waived on variable annuity contracts with account values over a certain dollar amount (for example, \$50,000). See the prospectus for details.
- **Underlying fund expenses on subaccounts** - These fees cover the cost of managing the investments within the subaccounts.
- **Optional Rider costs** - Additional riders that provide protection for death and/or provide guaranteed income will cost extra.

The compensation paid on variable annuity transactions from the insurance company is made to FFS and shared with your financial professional. Your financial professional has the option to choose from a higher upfront commission with a lower trail payment or, conversely, a lower upfront commission with a higher trail payment. Please refer to the prospectus and offering documents for information specific to the variable annuity you purchase.

Fixed Indexed Annuities

Fixed indexed annuities are contracts issued by insurance companies that provide principal protection of payments/contributions. These contracts credit interest based upon the performance of a market index, such as the S&P 500. The performance is subject to predetermined rate caps and floors, meaning the performance of your fixed indexed annuity will not exceed or fall below the specified return levels, regardless of market conditions. Generally, this means that your principal investment is protected from market loss while it provides some participation in market returns when index values that are tracked in the policy increase over time.

Typically, index annuities do not have a front-end sales charge when you purchase them but you may pay a CDSC to the insurance company if you liquidate the contract before the end of a certain period of time. The percentage amount of the CDSC usually declines over time. Typically, you do not pay any sales charges or annual operating expenses when you purchase a fixed indexed or buffered annuity. The insurance company considers all its costs, including commissions, when determining the interest rate, caps, participation rates, and CDSC.

Index annuities also offer optional riders for purchase by policy holders that provide guarantees of income. These costs are paid directly out of the policy.

The insurance company pays FFS a commission at the time you fund the policy and, for some contracts, at the time of any subsequent renewal. The commission is not deducted from your initial premium or renewal amount. We share this commission with your financial professional.

Common and Preferred Stocks

Stocks are securities that represent an ownership share in a company. For companies, issuing stock is a way to raise money to grow and invest in their business. For investors, stocks are a way to potentially grow their investments. Stock prices fluctuate, but investors who own stock anticipate that over time, the stock will increase in value. Not every company or stock does so. Companies can lose value or go out of business completely. When that happens, stock investors may lose all or part of their investment.

We act as an agent for your Stock transactions, which means we send your order to an external venue to buy or sell shares of the Stock. You will pay a ticket charge on each transaction. You could also pay a commission, which we share with your financial professional. For additional information please discuss the ticket charges and commissions with your financial professional prior to the transaction.

Bonds (Corporate, Municipal, Government)

A bond is a fixed income instrument that represents a loan made by an investor to a borrower (typically corporate or governmental). Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states, and sovereign governments to finance projects and operations. Owners of bonds are debtholders, or creditors, of the issuer. Bond details include the end date when the principal of the loan is due to be paid to the bond owner and usually includes the terms for variable or fixed interest payments made by the borrower.

We act as an agent for your Bond transactions, which means we send your order to an external venue to buy or sell positions in the Bond. You will pay a ticket charge on each transaction. You could also pay a commission, which we share with your financial professional. For additional information please discuss the ticket charges and commissions with your financial professional prior to the transaction.

Certificates of Deposit

CDs issued by banks or savings & loans companies have fixed interest rates and set maturity dates. We also offer market-linked CDs, which are CDs with a return based on a collection of stocks or a market index, such as the Dow Jones Index or a basket of equities. CDs and market linked CDs are FDIC insured.

For new market-linked CD's, clients pay the initial offering price, which is set by the issuer. The offering price includes costs and fees associated with purchasing the security and includes selling concessions paid to FFS. Clients are not charged additional sales charges or commissions. The offering price and a description of the costs and fees associated with a security can be found in the prospectus. We share the selling commission received with your financial professional.

For CDs purchased in the secondary market, clients pay a markup (in the case of a purchase) or a markdown (in the case of a sale), which generally consists of (1) the sales credit (effectively a commission) that varies based on the time to maturity and (2) the markup or markdown that the trading desk has included as part of the transaction. We share the markup/markdown with your financial professional.

Alternative Investments

FFS offers alternative investment solutions that can include non-traded real estate investment trusts (non-traded REITs), non-traded business development companies (non-traded BDCs), and non-traded closed-end funds.

These products are classified as "alternative" because they are unlike traditional brokerage securities, such as stocks and bonds, and are generally not traded on an exchange. In some cases, alternative investments have a negative correlation to traditional investments and are used to further diversify portfolios beyond the traditional asset classes to help manage risk.

Alternative investments are generally illiquid long-term investments (7-10+ years) and there typically does not exist a secondary trading market. For this reason, converting an alternative investment to cash prior to liquidation is extremely difficult and may not be possible. In some cases, it may be difficult to determine the current value of the asset. Units or shares of these types of investments may fluctuate in value. Therefore, at the time of redemption, they may be worth more or less in value than the original amount invested. Most of these offerings are sold by prospectus or offering memorandum, which contains more complete information including risks, costs and expenses. Investors should read these carefully before investing.

Additionally, these investments contain fees and expenses that are higher than those of other investment types. These products are often complex and not appropriate for everyone. For this reason, there are heightened investor qualification requirements for purchases. There also could be a less expensive or less complicated product that is similarly appropriate for you.

When you invest in an alternative investment, the product sponsor pays us a sales charge or commission, which we share with your financial professional. In addition to this sales charge you will also be responsible for paying additional expenses relating to the organization and operation of the investment. A complete description of these expenses can be found in the product prospectus. We share the sales charge received with your financial professional.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This information is provided solely to clients of FFS and no further distribution or disclosure is permitted without the prior written consent of FFS. No person other than FFS clients can rely on any statement herein. The FFS Business Continuity Plan is reviewed and updated regularly and is subject to change.

Please visit the web site at [www.foundersfinancial.com](http://wwwFOUNDERSFINANCIAL.COM) for the most current copy of this disclosure. You can request an updated copy by contacting FFS at 888-523-1162, or writing FFS at the following address:

Founders Financial Securities, LLC ATTN: Compliance Department 1020 Cromwell Bridge Road Towson, Maryland 21286

FOUNDERS FINANCIAL SECURITIES, LLC
FORM ADV – PART 2A

March 31, 2025

Phone:
888-523-1162

Address:
1026 Cromwell Bridge Road Suite 100
Towson, Maryland 21286

Website:
www.foundersfinancial.com

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Founders Financial Securities, LLC (“FFS” or “the Firm”). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please call us at 888-523-1162. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or by any state securities authority.

The Firm offers and delivers information about its qualifications and business practices to clients at least annually. Pursuant to SEC Rules, FFS will notify clients of material changes to this brochure within 120 days of the close of its fiscal year. Further, FFS will disclose material changes to clients as necessary throughout its fiscal year. Additional information about FFS also is available on the SEC’s website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. The searchable IARD/CRD number for FFS is 137945.

FFS is a Registered Investment Adviser. Registration as an Investment Adviser does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

Item 2 - Material Changes

With this Brochure, the Firm offers and delivers information about its qualifications and business practices to clients at least annually. FFS will ensure that clients receive a summary of any material changes to this Brochure within 120 days of the close of the Firm's fiscal year. FFS will provide other ongoing disclosure information about material changes as necessary.

Below are the updates made since the last annual update that FFS made on March 30, 2024.

- Updated language to reflect the inception of the Custom Portfolio strategy within the FCMS program (Item 4 & 17)
- Updated language to reflect the termination of Concourse Financial Group Securities relationship (Item 10).
- Updated names of participants in the FFS sponsor programs (Item 10).

This Brochure can be requested by contacting the Firm at 888-523-1162.

Additional information about FFS is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov. The SEC's website also provides information about any persons affiliated with FFS who are registered, or are required to be registered, as Investment Adviser Representatives of FFS.

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Item 4 - Advisory Business

About FFS

Founders Financial Securities, LLC d/b/a Founders Financial (“FFS” or the “Firm”) was founded in 2004 and became registered with the SEC as an Investment Advisor in 2006. FFS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Founders Financial, LLC. Listed below is a description of the various investment advisory services offered by FFS through registered individuals associated with FFS as Investment Adviser Representatives (“IARs”). IARs hold themselves out to the public using business names other than FFS. These are known as “doing business as” names or, more commonly, “DBAs.” IARs must disclose on their advertising and correspondence materials that they are an IAR of FFS and that securities and investment advisory services are offered through FFS.

Description of Services Available

FFS does not determine investment philosophies and strategies for IARs. Investment philosophies and strategies will vary by IAR based upon how they understand individual client investment needs. IARs are responsible for recommending and implementing investment advice under the supervision of FFS. Clients are advised that there is no guarantee, stated or implied, that the client’s investment goals or objectives will be achieved.

FFS’ IARs provide investment advisory services on both a discretionary and non-discretionary basis. These services include, but are not limited to, providing ongoing investment advice, management of investment advisory accounts, and recommendation of third-party money managers. IARs also provide advice to clients on matters not directly involving securities, such as financial planning, retirement planning and estate planning.

FFS’ IARs approach to financial planning can include a review of a client’s financial assets, liabilities, and cash flows through the lens of their investment goals and objectives. When such a review is provided, the IAR will work with the client to create a financial plan that considers savings goals, projections about a client’s potential ability to achieve their goals and objectives and the impact of different rates of return and possible future variations in cash flow. Further, the IAR will work with the client to determine a prudent asset allocation considering existing assets, client risk tolerance and time horizon, and the potential benefits of diversification.

FFS IARs approach to investment management and advisory services can include personal discussions in which a client’s investment goals and objectives are discussed and established. The IAR will develop an investment plan that considers each client’s investment objectives, risk tolerance, time frame, and future need for the funds. The Firm’s IARs will use various tools, resources, and questionnaires to understand these factors and then build and recommend or manage the portfolio according to the criteria. FFS IARs will provide continuous investment management advice based on the client’s individual needs. Both FFS and the IAR operate under a special rule that requires both to fiduciary responsibilities. FFS and the IAR must:

- Meet a professional standard of care when making investment recommendations (give prudent advice);
- Never put FFS and the IAR financial interests ahead of the clients when making recommendations (give loyal advice);
- Avoid misleading statements about conflicts of interest, fees, and investments;
- Follow policies and procedures designed to ensure that FFS and the IAR give advice that is in the clients best interest;
- Charge no more than is reasonable for FFS and the IAR services; and
- Give the client basic information about conflicts of interest.

FFS’s IARs assist clients that are trustees or other fiduciaries to retirement plans by providing fee-based consulting and/or advisory services. If client elects to engage FFS and IAR to perform ongoing investment monitoring and ongoing investment recommendation services to a retirement plan, such services will constitute “investment advice” under Section 3(21)(A)(ii) of the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act (“ERISA”).

Depending upon the scope of services offered by the IAR, clients may also have the option of engaging FFS to provide certain investment advisory services on a discretionary basis as an “investment manager” under Section 3(38) of ERISA. Therefore, FFS and the IAR will be deemed a “fiduciary” as such term is defined under ERISA when providing either non-discretionary investment advice for a fee or discretionary investment manager services, as designated in the client account agreement. Clients should understand that to the extent FFS and IAR are engaged to perform services other than ongoing investment monitoring and recommendations (for example, investment education and general financial information), those services are not “investment advice” under ERISA and therefore, FFS and IAR will not be a “fiduciary” under ERISA with respect to those other services.

ERISA and Individual Retirement Accounts Disclosure

When FFS and the IAR provide investment advice for a fee to a client regarding a retirement plan account, FFS and the IAR are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. When an FFS IAR provides investment advice to an Individual Retirement Account both FFS and the IAR are acting as a fiduciary under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. The way both FFS and the IAR make money creates conflicts with client interests. However, as detailed above, FFS and the IAR have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the client.

FFS Advisory Programs:

I. Independence Advisory

Independence Advisory is an investment advisory platform available to IARs who manage client accounts through their own investment process. Management and trading in these accounts may be discretionary or non-discretionary. These accounts are custodied at Pershing LLC (“Pershing”), Axos Clearing LLC (“Axos”) or Charles Schwab & Co, Inc. (“Schwab”). The IAR and client will decide which custodial platform will serve the client’s needs after a discussion of their investment objectives, risk tolerance and investment goals. See Item 12 for more information on each custodian’s practices.

The IAR will develop an investment allocation that considers each client’s investment objectives, risk tolerance, time frame, and future need for the funds. The FFS IAR will use various tools, resources, and questionnaires to understand these factors and then build a portfolio subject to the investment choices available within the platform. The investment selections for Held Away 401k Accounts are limited to the choices offered through the specific account and custodian.

FFS IARs will provide continuous investment management advice based on the client’s individual needs. Client accounts typically hold mutual funds, stocks, and exchange traded funds (ETFs). Held Away 401k Account holdings can also include money market funds, investments with third party managers, and other types of securities.

The IAR can also offer advisory services for accounts not directly held with FFS custodians to implement asset allocation and rebalancing strategies on behalf of the client. This is accomplished through the management of Held Away 401k Accounts, via a partnered program with the Order Management System, Pontera Solutions, Inc. (“Pontera”). If the client elects to allow FFS and the IAR to manage the account through Pontera, the client will be notified when the IAR places trades through Pontera. Fees for the investment advisory services for held away 401k accounts are typically charged to a different account of the client that is managed directly by the IAR through another FFS advisory program or such fee can be paid directly by client. Fees are not deducted from the held away 401k account.

II. **Third-Party Asset Managers**

FFS enters into agreements with various unaffiliated third-party asset managers or sub-advisors to provide investment management, investment advice, consultation, and direction to FFS and the IAR concerning the management of the client account. In instances where sub-advisors are engaged, the client acknowledges that they receive all pertinent contracts, agreements, and disclosure documents.

Each IAR shall assist their client in formulating an investment plan based on the client's investment objectives, risk tolerance, and time horizon. Once an investment plan is formulated, a suitable third-party asset manager is selected to implement and manage the investments in the client's account. In preparing the investment plan, each IAR will set appropriate restrictions or limitations on the management based on client's investment profile and explain to the client the discretionary nature of the account activity transacted by the third-party asset manager. Also, FFS will periodically conduct due diligence and surveillance reviews of third-party managers. The relationship of FFS with the third-party asset manager will be clearly communicated to the client in the third-party asset manager's Client Services Agreement and/or other similar documentation. Each third-party asset manager is required to provide FFS and each of the IARs with disclosure documents, including among other items, a copy of their Form ADV 2A. Upon request, FFS will provide the client with a copy of any Brochure Documents of sub-advisors managing the client's assets, either on paper or electronically in accordance with the SEC's guidance on the use of electronic media.

III. **The Managed Portfolio Program (MPP)**

MPP is a fee-based platform through which an IAR constructs risk tolerance-based investment models utilizing a combination of mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and investment strategies sub-advised by third-party asset managers in an effort to meet the stated investment objectives of each client. Based on the information provided by the client, the IAR will determine which model(s) of the Managed Portfolio Program are appropriate for each client. FFS and IAR will monitor the sub-advised investment strategies, mutual funds, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that are selected for the Managed Portfolio Program and will assume discretionary authority, via the Investment Advisory Agreement, to manage the accounts. Custodial services are provided by Axos. In instances where sub-advisors are engaged or FFS has discretion, FFS obtains authorization from the clients to accept delivery of all disclosure documents, ADV, and trade confirmations.

IV. **Freedom Capital Management Strategies®**

Freedom Capital Management Strategies® ("FCMS") is a comprehensive suite of investment advisory programs managed by FFS. FFS delivers investment solutions through the IARs, which include professionally managed investment advisory accounts, investment fiduciary services for qualified retirement plans, and investment education for retirement plan participants, as detailed below.

In certain situations, FFS engages independent investment sub-advisors or model delivery providers to assist in the management of the investment strategies available through FCMS. In instances where sub-advisors are engaged or FFS has discretion, FFS obtains authorization from the clients to accept delivery of all disclosure documents, ADV, and trade confirmations.

- *FCMS Managed Accounts* – Through FCMS Managed Accounts, FFS offers a curated suite of managed investment strategies that incorporate strategic, dynamic, and alternative asset allocation methodologies. The IAR will assist each client in developing and implementing a personalized investment allocation based on the client's investment objective, risk tolerance, and time horizon. The client accounts in FCMS are managed by FFS and the IAR on a discretionary basis, as detailed in the Client Advisory Agreement. If a Custom Portfolio strategy is chosen, then Orion Portfolio Solutions will be the sub-advisor as set forth in detail in the Client Agreement. The

client accounts invested through this program are held in custody at Axos.

- *FCMS Private Wealth Solutions* – FFS has partnered with Maple Capital Management, Inc. (“Maple Capital”), a Registered Investment Advisor that is not affiliated with FFS, to create customized portfolio solutions that are typically comprised of individual stocks and bonds. FFS and the IAR are responsible for client management which includes, but is not limited to, such things as: account setup, identifying client investment objectives, suitability, risk tolerance, time horizon, and client relationship management. Maple Capital is responsible for investing activities, which include, but is not limited to, such things as: selecting and monitoring investments, portfolio construction, and executing transactions in accordance with the client’s investment objectives and risk tolerance. The terms and conditions under which the client shall engage Maple Capital through FFS will be set forth in an investment advisory agreement between the client, FFS and Maple Capital.

FCMS Private Wealth Solutions incorporates a private client service model where the portfolio management team from Maple Capital works alongside the IAR to develop and implement a custom investment portfolio for each client based upon each client’s investment objectives, suitability, risk tolerance, and time horizon. The client accounts in this program are managed on a discretionary basis, as detailed in the investment advisory agreement and are held in custody at Schwab.

- *FCMS Freedom Independence Plan* – The Freedom Independence Plan is a discretionary investment advisory program for company qualified retirement plans. Through this program, FFS serves as a fiduciary investment manager, as defined in section 3(38) of the Employee Retirement Income Securities Act (ERISA). FFS selects, manages, and monitors the investments made available in the retirement plan of each plan sponsor client using this program and also develops an investment policy statement for each of the retirement plans. IARs assist the plan sponsor in determining if the program is appropriate for their plan and also provide plan design consultation to plan sponsors and investment education to plan participants. The program is currently available at several retirement plan recordkeepers that are unaffiliated with FFS.
- *TheFreedomStrategies.com* – This is an investment education subscription service offering assistance to clients with participant-directed retirement accounts that are held away from FFS. This subscription-based service delivers asset allocation guidance through FFS and the IARs to support clients in managing their retirement plan accounts that are not held with FFS. More information is available at TheFreedomStrategies.com.

V. **Nationwide Variable Annuity**

This is a fee-based variable annuity issued by Nationwide. As with all variable annuities, the Nationwide product can provide certain tax advantages for non-qualified client assets. The IAR develops an investment allocation that considers each client’s investment objective, suitability, risk tolerance, time horizon, and future need for the funds. FFS’ IARs will use various tools, resources, and questionnaires to understand each of these factors and then build and manage the portfolio according to the criteria within the Nationwide product subject to the sub-accounts available within Nationwide Variable Annuities. FFS’ IARs will provide on-going investment management advice based on the client’s individual needs.

The investment selections for the variable annuity are limited to the choices offered through the particular Nationwide product. Specifics regarding the annuity are found in the annuity prospectus and application documents. The IAR builds and recommends an appropriate asset allocation for each client based on their risk tolerance, using sub-accounts available within the Nationwide Variable Annuity. On-

going monitoring of the account is performed by the IAR and recommendations for changes to asset allocations or sub-accounts must be approved by the client.

VI. Financial Planning Services

FFS IARs offer financial planning and consulting. Financial planning typically involves providing a variety of services to individuals or entities regarding the management of their overall financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. Generally, financial planning services involve preparing a financial analysis for a client based on the client's stated life goals, income, and financial needs, and could also include a review of the client's investment objectives, suitability, and risk tolerance. The information provided as part of this service would normally cover present and anticipated assets and liabilities, including insurance, savings, investments, and anticipated retirement benefits or other employee benefits. Traditional financial planning involves meeting with the client to determine financial goals and objectives and then developing and delivering a financial plan.

The financial planning advice that is provided by the IAR will include general recommendations for a course of action or specific actions to be taken. Typical financial planning and consulting will include the following:

- Initial Client Meeting
 - The purpose of an initial meeting is to discuss specific areas of concern and potential planning areas. During this meeting, the IAR will work with the client to determine whether a financial plan is appropriate or whether the client seeks investment advice only.
 - As part of the initial meeting, or as a separate meeting, the IAR will review necessary documents to develop a financial plan. These documents can include, but are not limited to, brokerage statements, insurance policies, income tax statements, estate documents, previously completed financial plans, business agreements and retirement information.
- Developing a Financial Plan, Investment Analysis, or Both
 - Based on the information the IAR gathers, a financial plan or investment analysis will be developed. The IAR can use various computer software tools to assist in creating the financial plan or investment analysis. While the IAR will not provide tax or legal advice, with client permission the IAR can speak with and gather information from the client's attorney or tax professional.

Financial plans typically consist of a combination of one or more of the following services:

- Financial Position
 - Financial position review encompasses a review of current financial position, including a review of current cash flow. This type of review typically involves reviewing client net worth, cash flow, budget, debt, and investment accounts.
- Retirement Planning
 - Retirement planning typically consists of analyzing current or expected future retirement needs. Based on the current level of retirement savings, additional retirement accounts (such as an IRA or Roth IRA) could be recommended, or additional contributions to existing company retirement plan could be recommended.
 - If the client has an account in a company retirement plan that falls under ERISA (such as a 401(k), defined benefit plan, etc.), the IAR can provide education on the company's

retirement account and/or recommendations for the allocation of client investments based on the client's investment objectives, suitability, risk tolerance and time horizon.

- Insurance Analysis
 - Insurance analysis typically consists of analyzing current or expected insurance needs. Based on the client's specific circumstances such as, liability risks, number of dependents and the age of the members in a household, the IAR could suggest the need to increase or decrease the amount of insurance or modify or change the type of policy. The types of policies that the analysis covers could include, but are not limited to, life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, health insurance, and property and casualty insurance.
- Education Planning
 - The IAR can review current or future needs as it relates to paying for education expenses for the client or their dependents. This type of review typically analyzes the amount of money being saved for education expenses in addition to what might be needed based on the client's education goals. Further, the review could include recommendations on how to invest funds that are earmarked for educational needs.
- Estate and Wealth Transfer

The IAR can review the goals of the client as it relates to the client's financial legacy. This type of review typically assesses account ownership structure, beneficiary designations, and whether the client has appropriate legal documentation. The IAR cannot provide any legal or tax advice and will commonly recommend the client seek appropriate counsel from legal and/or tax professionals.
- Investment Analysis

Investment Analysis involves the IAR interviewing the client to understand the client's goals and objectives of current portfolio(s) and investable assets. This analysis typically consists of the client completing a risk tolerance interview and/or assessment. Upon completion the IAR will typically compare the client's current portfolio to the client's determined risk tolerance. The investment analysis can include, but is not required to contain, security and/or product analysis of client investments, a broad asset allocation review, and a review of the tax efficiency of the client's overall investment portfolio. As part of the consulting services, the IAR cannot provide tax advice. Upon completion of the analysis, the IAR can provide the client with recommendations regarding the client's investment portfolio that will take into consideration the financial planning objectives, asset accumulation goals, time frame, and investment experience.
- Recommendations

The client is under no obligation to implement financial planning or investment recommendations provided by the IAR. If the client chooses to act on any of the advice given, client is under no obligation to open any accounts with FFS or the IAR and may choose to open accounts with firms that are not affiliated with FFS. If the client implements any investment recommendations through FFS, this will create a conflict of interest for the IAR and FFS because the IAR and FFS will receive compensation for recommendations that are implemented through FFS. If the Client implements such recommendations by using another broker-dealer, investment advisor or dealing directly with an issuer of mutual funds, neither FFS nor the IAR will be compensated.

VII. 1031 Planning

As part of Financial Planning Services, FFS' IARs may also provide consulting services to clients initiating 1031 exchanges of real property and seeking advice towards reinvestment of assets received from the exchange. FFS IARs can provide recommendations regarding the reinvestment of assets into Delaware

Statutory Trusts (DST) or any real property instrument. Although FFS IARs may assist clients with the preparation of direct application purchase, the IAR does not facilitate the exchange or purchase of such properties or any investment. Further, the FFS IAR will not receive any compensation from the 1031 provider, nor accept any responsibility for ongoing assessment or advice concerning the 1031 exchange and property that was selected by the client. Clients may choose to not accept the recommendations made by the IAR. Finally, FFS IARs will not be listed as advisors of record as the transaction will occur through a nonaffiliated outside broker dealer.

VIII. Wrap Fee Programs

FFS does not sponsor or manage any wrap fee programs. IARs are permitted to recommend the use of third-party asset managers that offer wrap fee programs. The third-party asset managers recommended by IARs that offer wrap fee programs include, but are not limited to, AssetMark, SEI Asset Management, and Independence Manager Exchange. These are considered “wrap fee” programs because the client pays a specified fee for the overall portfolio management services and trade execution. Wrap fee programs differ from other programs in that the asset management fee structure for wrap fee programs is intended to be largely all-inclusive, whereas non-wrap fee programs assess trade execution costs or separate administrative fees that are typically in addition to the asset management fee. For example, the FCMS Managed Account and FFS Independence Advisory programs are not considered wrap fee programs because clients generally pay trade-by-trade transaction costs, if any, and a separate administrative fee that is in addition to the asset management fee. Third-party asset managers that offer wrap fee programs are available through FFS and are managed in accordance with the investment methodology and philosophy used by the respective third-party asset managers, investment advisers, or strategists. Clients should refer to the specific program documents and the third-party asset manager’s wrap fee brochure for a full description of their services and all related terms, conditions, fees, and expenses.

Individualized Services and Client-Imposed Restrictions

The investment advisory services provided by FFS’ IARs depend largely on the personal information the client provides to the IAR. For FFS IARs to provide appropriate investment advice to, or in the case of discretionary accounts, make appropriate investment decisions for the client, it is very important that clients provide accurate and complete responses to their IAR’s questions about their financial condition, needs and objectives, time horizon and any reasonable restrictions they wish to apply to the securities or types of securities to be bought, sold, or held in their account(s). It is also important that clients promptly inform their IAR of any changes in their financial condition, investment objectives, personal circumstances, time horizon and reasonable investment restrictions if any, that could affect the client’s overall investment goals and strategies.

Each of the programs described above has its own independent set of agreements and documents that will be provided to the client for review and execution. Each agreement identifies specific roles of the IAR and includes information about program fees, charges, and risks. Clients should refer to the specific program documents for a full description of their products and services and all related terms, conditions, fees, and expenses.

Program Choice Conflicts of Interest

FFS and the IAR have a fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of the client. A conflict of interest arises when FFS and/or the IAR have competing interests between the professional obligation of doing what is best for the client, and the self-interest of the IAR and/or of FFS, and that self-interest could influence the professional obligation. For example, the IAR has a certain level of discretion regarding the fee he/she charges a client. An IAR has a financial incentive to charge a higher fee, which creates a conflict of interest for the IAR. Another example involves compensation to FFS and the IAR: compensation will differ according to the specific advisory program or services chosen. FFS and the IAR have an incentive to recommend or select an advisory program that will provide one or both of them with more, rather than less, compensation.

The program administrative fees, management fees, administrative servicing fees, and other compensation to FFS and the IAR vary across different platforms and could be more than the amounts that would otherwise be received if a client participated in another program, purchased a mutual fund directly, or paid for investment advice, brokerage, and/or other relevant services separately. For example, FFS and/or its IARs typically receive a higher level of compensation for participating in the Freedom Capital Management Strategies program than other advisory programs available through FFS. FFS receives a portion of the ticket charges for trades done through Pershing. Also, FFS receives compensation for assets held by Pershing, Axos and Schwab. Although in these instances the IAR does not receive any portion of such compensation. For clients that hold accounts in multiple FFS Advisory programs, FFS does not calculate the combined account balances across FFS Advisory programs to determine an opportunity for tiered or breakpoint pricing for each program individually. Aggregating tiered or breakpoint pricing for multiple accounts may only apply to accounts held within the same FFS program. Encouraging clients to open accounts across different programs could result in higher fees to the client which creates a conflict of interest for the IAR and the Firm.

FFS and the IAR also have a financial incentive to maintain non-invested cash within the client account for operational purposes and/or as a liquid holding position until investment recommendations and decisions are made by the client, which creates a conflict of interest for the IAR and FFS. In addition, clients may find higher interest-bearing alternatives for non-invested cash outside of accounts held through custodians utilized by FFS.

For Independence Advisory accounts custodied through Schwab, clients may elect to trade directly through the Schwab on-line platform. This may be done without the IAR's involvement or knowledge. However, the IAR will receive a fee on the account whether the transactions were recommended by IAR or not. Whether the client chooses to trade utilizing the Schwab on-line platform or through the IAR, FFS and the IAR will routinely review client accounts to be certain it is in line with the client's stated investment objectives and risk tolerance.

For the Independence Advisory, Managed Portfolio Program, and FCMS Managed accounts, FFS typically maintains between 1.0% to 2.0% of the account value in the custodian's cash sweep account for operational purposes, including the payment of fees and transaction charges. This practice could result in a lower investment return than that which might be obtained if such value was otherwise invested.

The custodian will ordinarily utilize a bank sweep option or non-interest-bearing cash account to allocate idle cash in each client account, as selected by the client at the time an account is established. This is done by automatically investing idle cash in the account's selected option. To the extent a bank sweep option or non-interest bearing cash account is utilized, this action is primarily taken so that idle cash has the opportunity to earn interest for a liquid cash holding in the account. This bank sweep option or non-interest-bearing cash account is also the default option from which the custodian will withdraw funds from to pay any debits on the account, including but not limited to advisory fees. Client should ask the IAR for information concerning the bank sweep option or non-interest-bearing cash account. Alternatively, clients may find that a money market fund or interest-bearing liquid accounts not held at the custodian will credit higher interest and as such should consider this as an option for the liquid cash positions in client account that are greater than the 2% the FFS typically maintains for operational purposes.

As a result of the differences in fee schedules and sources of compensation that exist among the various advisory programs, custodial relationships, and services offered, FFS and the IAR have a financial incentive to recommend one program or service over another program or services available through FFS, creating a conflict of interest for the IAR and the Firm. The results of such a recommendation cannot be determined in advance, but only with the benefit of hindsight. However, as a fiduciary, both FFS and the IAR will act in the clients best interest.

Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2024, FFS manages \$3,317,831,000 of advisory assets. FFS manages \$3,026,933,135 on a discretionary basis, and \$290,897,864 is managed on a non-discretionary basis.

Item 5 - Fees and Compensation

How FFS and IAR are Compensated

Investment Advisory Fees

All fees are determined separately for each account. The fee rates applied by the IAR depend on, but are not limited to, the type of assets under management, the composition or structure of the account, the size of the account, and the services rendered to the client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. Other investment advisors could offer similar programs that charge less fees or that will not charge separately for brokerage and transaction costs.

Generally, fees are based on a percentage of the value of assets under management at the time the fee is assessed. Depending on the program and as outlined in detail later in this document, fees will be charged quarterly or monthly, in advance or in arrears. IARs can also charge a flat dollar rate or percentage for managing multiple accounts held away or can charge a combination of percentage of the value of assets under management. The IAR can also charge the client commissions if the IAR is a registered representative.

Complete information regarding fees and charges assessed are described in applicable prospectuses and client account opening documents. Clients are advised to review these documents thoroughly prior to opening any account.

FFS will provide a 30-day notification, in writing, of any change in the amount of the fees and charges. At the expiration of the 30-day period, the new fees and charges will become effective unless the client notifies FFS in writing that the account is to be closed.

I. Independence Advisory

Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied with Pershing

Clients will pay FFS annual fees to participate in the account, as negotiated by the IAR and the client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. The annual fees are prorated monthly and will be assessed at the beginning of each month based on the account value as of the close of business on the last business day of the preceding month. The fee shall be paid monthly in advance and FFS will instruct the custodian to deduct the fees from the account. The breakdown of the total fee is provided in detail in the client's executed Independence Advisory Agreement. Information on all fees and charges will also be provided to the client via confirmations and/or statements.

Fees for Independence Advisory accounts typically do not exceed 2.50% annually. Independence Advisory accounts typically require a minimum account balance of \$25,000. Exceptions may be granted by the IAR. This may result in some clients maintaining accounts with less than \$25,000. For accounts that are opened with less than \$25,000 with the expectation of additional funding to occur, or if account value falls below \$25,000, the fee is not to exceed 2.50% or the \$125 minimum annual fee, prorated monthly, whichever is greater. Accordingly, under some circumstances, a client might pay an effective rate greater than 2.50%. The annual fee received by FFS and the IAR does not include transaction charges and other account related fees, which are described fully in the Independence Advisory agreement provided to the client at, or before, establishing an account. The initial fee is due upon account funding and will be calculated at a prorated amount.

Client will also incur certain charges imposed by investment companies, mutual funds, or third parties other than FFS and the IAR in connection with investments made through the account, including, but not limited to, the following types of charges: 12b-1 fees, shareholder services fees, management fees, servicing fees, other transaction charges and service fees, and IRA and Qualified Retirement Plan fees. Client will also pay the costs associated with executing trades in client accounts applied by Pershing, summarized as ticket charges. FFS will receive a portion of the ticket charges applied by the custodian to trades executed in

client accounts. This creates a conflict of interest for FFS because the more trades executed in a client account the more ticket charges are applied, of which FFS receives a portion. This conflict of interest does not apply to the IAR. Complete details of the ticket charges are provided in the client's executed Independence Advisory Agreement.

The custodian will utilize a default money market fund or bank sweep option to allocate idle cash in each client account. This is done by automatically investing idle cash in the account's default option. This default action is primarily taken so that idle cash has the opportunity to earn interest for this type of liquid cash holding. This money market fund or bank sweep option is also the first option that the custodian will withdraw funds from to pay any debits on the account, including but not limited to advisory fees. Clients should ask the IAR for information concerning the current default money market fund or bank sweep option that the custodian has been instructed to use in client accounts, the client should request this information directly from their IAR. Client may choose a money market fund or bank sweep option other than the default. However, the custodian only has the ability to suppress 12b-1, shareholder service and other similar fees on the default options. Further, the client may find interest bearing liquid accounts not held at the custodian will credit higher interest and as such should consider this as an option for the liquid cash positions maintained in the client account.

The Independence Advisory accounts offer transaction-fee ("TF") mutual funds, as well as no-transaction-fee ("NTF") mutual funds. The purchase or sale of TF funds available for investment through Independence Advisory accounts will result in the assessment of transaction charges to the client. NTF funds do not assess transaction charges up front but typically have higher internal expenses than funds that do not participate in an NTF program. These higher internal fund expenses are assessed to clients who purchase or hold NTF funds. Depending upon the frequency of trading and length of the holding period(s), NTF funds may cost the client more. In addition, the higher internal expenses charged to clients who hold NTF funds will adversely affect the long-term performance of their accounts when compared to share classes of the same fund that assess lower internal expenses. If clients choose to place trades in accounts without the advice of the IAR, clients are urged to inquire whether lower-cost share classes are available and/or appropriate for their account in consideration of their expected investment holding periods, amounts invested, and anticipated trading frequency. Further information regarding fees and charges assessed by a mutual fund is available in the appropriate mutual fund prospectus.

For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document. All fees are fully disclosed in the Independence Advisory Agreement, Custodial agreement(s), or in the applicable prospectus. The Firm's clearing/custodial firm has been instructed, whenever possible, to credit 12b-1 fees or shareholder services fees they receive from the client's account holdings to the client's account.

Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied at Axos

Client will pay FFS annual fees to participate in the account, as negotiated by the IAR and the client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. The annual fees are prorated monthly and will be assessed at the beginning of each month based on the account value as of the close of business on the last business day of the preceding month. The fee shall be paid monthly in arrears. A pro-rated charge will be assessed at the end of the month for the client's initial investment. FFS will instruct the custodian to deduct the fee from the account. The breakdown of the total fee is provided in detail in the client's executed Independence Advisory Agreement. All fees and charges will also be provided to the client via confirmations and/or statements. Fees for Independence Advisory accounts typically do not exceed 2.50% annually.

Independence Advisory accounts at Axos typically require a minimum account balance of \$5,000. In addition to the advisory fees described above, the custodian charges a flat annual fee based on the size of the account. For accounts that are valued less than \$25,000 the custodian charges a \$50 annual account

fee. For accounts that are valued \$25,000 to \$99,999 the custodian charges a \$75 annual account fee. For accounts that are valued greater than \$100,000 the custodian charges a \$100 annual account fee. These custodial fees are charged quarterly in arrears. Due to the custodial fee, some accounts could pay an effective rate greater than 2.50% annually.

Client will also incur execution and account service charges from the custodian and certain charges imposed by investment companies, mutual funds, custodian, or third parties other than FFS and Advisor in connection with investments made through an Independence Advisory account, which are typically disclosed in the applicable prospectus or agreement. The custodian will receive and retain (i) Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing, directed commissions, administrative and sub-administrative fees, and/or other revenue sharing payments from (a) mutual funds in which assets of the account are invested, and/or (b) from other persons connected with such mutual funds; (ii) fees or interest earned from uninvested cash balances in excess of interest paid to the client on such cash balances; and/or (iii) fees from non-mutual fund trading. The client understands and acknowledges that fees and interest referenced in the preceding sentence will be retained by custodian, without compensation to FFS, IAR, or the client.

For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document. All fees are fully disclosed in the Independence Advisory Agreement, Custodial agreement(s) or in the applicable prospectus. The custodian will retain custodial fees, and any 12b-1 and shareholder services fees received from the client's account holdings.

Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied at Schwab

Client will pay FFS annual fees to participate in the account, as negotiated by the IAR and the client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. The annual fees are assessed monthly and will be calculated based on the average daily account balance for the preceding month. The fee shall be paid monthly in arrears. FFS will instruct the custodian to deduct the fees from the account. The breakdown of the total fee is provided in detail in the client's executed Independence Advisory Agreement. All fees and charges will also be provided to the client via confirmations and/or statements. Fees for Independence Advisory accounts typically do not exceed 2.50%.

Independence Advisory accounts custodied at Schwab typically require a minimum account balance of \$5,000. Clients will also incur execution and account service charges from custodian and certain charges imposed by investment companies, mutual funds, or third parties connection with investments made through the account, including, but not limited to, the following types of charges: 12b-1 fees, shareholder service fees, management fees, servicing fees, other transaction charges and service fees, and IRA and Qualified Retirement Plan fees. Neither FFS nor the IAR benefit from these charges.

For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document. All fees are fully disclosed in the Independence Advisory Agreement, Custodial agreement(s) or in the applicable prospectus. The custodian will retain custodial fees, and any 12b-1 and shareholder services fees received from the client's account holdings. Independence Advisory accounts custodied at Schwab offer transaction-fee ("TF") mutual funds, as well as no-transaction-fee ("NTF") mutual funds. The purchase or sale of TF funds available for investment through Independence Advisory accounts will result in the assessment of transaction charges to the client. NTF funds do not assess transaction charges up front, but typically have higher internal expenses than funds that do not participate in an NTF program. These higher internal fund expenses are assessed to clients who purchase or hold NTF funds. Depending upon the frequency of trading, amount invested, and length of the holding period(s), NTF funds may cost the client more. In addition, the higher internal expenses charged to clients who hold NTF funds will adversely affect the long-term performance of their accounts when compared to share classes of the same fund that assess lower internal expenses. If clients choose to place trades in accounts without the advice of the IAR, clients are urged to inquire whether lower-cost share classes are available and/or appropriate for their account in consideration of their expected investment

holding periods, amounts invested, and anticipated trading frequency. Further information regarding fees and charges assessed by a mutual fund is available in the applicable mutual fund prospectus.

Held Away 401k Accounts

The advisory fee consists of the annual administrative fee and the investment advisor fee. The fee for the initial period will be paid on a pro rata basis based on the number of days in the billing period for which services were provided, in arrears, based on the billing period ending value of the account value. For all future periods, the fee will be assessed and payable each billing period, in arrears, based on the billing period ending value of the account value. All fees are fully disclosed in the investment advisory agreement. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 15 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no rebate will be needed upon termination of the account.

Held Away Assets Service fees will be assessed and billed quarterly. The fee for the service will be billed separately and will not exceed 2.50% of the assets included in the held-away account.

II. Third-Party Asset Managers

To receive fees and/or compensation, FFS' IARs can act in either a "promoter" or "advisor" capacity when making third-party asset manager programs available to the client.

When FFS' IARs act as a "promoter" for the third-party asset manager, neither FFS nor the IAR are appointed by the client as an investment adviser in relation to the account. Instead, the IAR will assist the client in selecting one or more third-party asset managers believed to be suitable based on the client's stated financial situation, investment objectives, time horizon, and financial goals. When the IAR act as a "promoter," FFS and the IAR are compensated for referring the client to the ongoing advisory services provided to the client within the selected third-party asset manager program. FFS and the IAR receive compensation via the third-party asset manager by receiving a portion of the fees that the client pays to the third-party asset manager program sponsor as stated in the client's signed agreement with the third-party asset manager and the written disclosure statement from the solicitor to the client disclosing the terms of the arrangement between the third-party manager and the promoter, including the compensation to be received by the promoter. See Item 14 for more information on these relationships.

When FFS' IARs act as an "advisor" to the client, the client will be provided with portfolio management supervisory services with respect to the third-party asset manager program(s) the client selects. The IAR will perform on-going monitoring of the third-party asset manager's performance, investment selection, and continued suitability for the client portfolio and will advise the client accordingly on an on-going basis. The IAR will help determine the client's risk tolerance, investment goals, and other relevant guidelines to help choose a third-party asset manager program designed to help the client satisfy the client's investment needs. The specific third-party asset manager program selected by the client may cost the client more or less than purchasing third-party asset manager program services separately. Factors that bear upon the cost of a particular third-party asset manager program in relation to the cost of the same services purchased separately include, but may not be limited to, the type and size of the account; the historical or expected size or number of trades for the account; the types of securities and strategies involved; the amount of fees, commissions, and other charges that apply at the account or transaction level; and the number and range of supplementary advisory and client-related services provided to the account. Lower fees for comparable services may be available from other sources.

Whether FFS' IARs act as a "promoter" or as an "advisor," client will pay an annual fee to the third-party asset manager as negotiated by IAR and client. The fees for client's accounts managed directly by third-party asset managers will be billed to the account maintained with the third-party asset manager or its designated custodian. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. The client authorizes the third-party asset manager under the third-party asset

manager's client agreement to charge the client's account directly for investment services rendered and directly remit the fees owed to FFS and IAR on a periodic basis as called for in the third-party asset manager's client agreement.

Fees and transaction charges differ for each third-party asset manager. The client is notified via the third-party asset manager's separate client agreement and Form ADV of the specific terms and conditions governing the relationship between the client and the third-party asset manager. Upon request, FFS will provide the client with a copy of any Brochure Documents of third-party asset managers managing the client's assets, either on paper or electronically in accordance with the SEC's guidance on the use of electronic media.

In the event of termination, when acting as a "promoter" neither the IAR nor FFS will advise the third-party asset manager to deliver securities and funds held in the account. The client must provide termination instructions directly to the third-party asset manager. The client must also contact the third-party asset money manager directly regarding all fees and charges that will remain in effect from the termination date.

Independence Manager Exchange

Independence Manager Exchange is the Firm's proprietary name for the third-party asset manager program offered through Orion Portfolio Solutions ("Orion"). The terms and conditions under which the client shall engage Orion will be set forth in separate written agreements between (1) the client and FFS and (2) the client and Orion. Clients will pay Orion an annual fee to participate in the program, as negotiated by IAR and the client. The administration fees charged by Orion are exclusive of, and in addition to, FFS' IAR investment advisory fee. FFS receives a portion of the administration fees from Orion. All fees will be assessed monthly, in arrears, and will be collected from the client's Orion account. Complete disclosures regarding the fees, expenses, and other charges for participation in this program are set forth in Orion's Application Addendum, Orion's Form ADV2A, and Orion's Wrap Fee brochure which is provided to the client prior to establishing the account. Upon request, FFS will provide the client with a copy of any Brochure Documents of third-party asset managers managing the client's assets, either on paper or electronically in accordance with the SEC's guidance on the use of electronic media.

The amount of the fee will vary depending on the strategies selected and client's assets invested within the program but will not exceed 2.75% annually. In addition, these fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. Orion reserves the right to change the fees and will inform the client by posting changes on its websites or by other means. FFS and the IAR will receive a portion of the fees and charges as compensation for the services performed.

Client will also incur certain charges associated with securities transactions in the clients' accounts, including: (a) dealer markups, markdowns or spreads charged on transactions in over the counter securities; (b) costs relating to trading in certain foreign securities; (c) the internal charges and fees that are imposed by any mutual funds, such as mutual fund operating expenses, management fees, redemption fees, 12b-1 fees, shareholder services fees, and other fees and expenses; (d) brokerage commissions or other charges imposed by broker-dealers or entities other than the custodian if and when trades are cleared by another broker-dealer; and (e) charges to carry tax lot information on transferred mutual funds or other investment vehicles, postage and handling charges, returned check charges, transfer taxes; stock exchange fees or other fees mandated by law. Further information regarding charges and fees assessed by funds can be found in the appropriate prospectus or offering document. For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document.

Investment strategists available through Orion make all investment decisions and will, from time to time, select for the client share classes that charge 12b-1 fees when lower cost share classes are available. This may occur because some mutual funds charge 12(b)-1 fees, but no transaction fees, while other share

classes in the same fund family do not charge 12(b)-1 fees but do charge transaction fees. Mutual funds charging 12(b)-1 fees will be recommended when the overall cost is seen as a benefit to the client. Neither these payments nor other payments received by the custodian with respect to the client's assets invested, will be credited back to the client in calculating the above-described fees. FFS and IAR do not receive any portion of such 12b-1 fees but will conduct surveillance to determine that the mutual fund share class is in the client's best interest.

Clients can terminate the account effective upon written notice to FFS and/or the IAR. FFS can terminate for any reason, including a client's failure to promptly pay fees and charges, or for any conduct or situation that in FFS' judgment impairs an effective relationship between the parties, effective upon written notice to the client.

Termination of an account will not affect the liabilities or obligations of the client as to transactions initiated prior to termination. If the client terminates the relationship within five (5) business days of signing the agreement, the client will receive a full refund of fees paid.

Orion's services can be terminated by the client, Orion, or the Firm in accordance with Orion's Terms of Services and Use Agreement. The client is responsible for paying for services rendered until the termination of the agreement.

III. Managed Portfolio Program

The Managed Portfolio Program is the Firm's proprietary name for the third-party asset manager program whereby the IAR constructs investment models. The client will pay FFS an annual fee to participate in the program. The fee is paid in quarterly installments, in arrears, and will be deducted from the account. The amount of the administrative and advisor fees for Managed Portfolio Program for all dollar amounts invested is 1.65%. FFS and the IAR share in the fee as compensation for the services performed.

Managed Portfolio Program accounts typically require a minimum account balance of \$10,000. In addition to the administrative and advisory fees described above, the custodian charges a flat annual fee based on the size of the account. For accounts that are valued less than \$25,000 the custodian charges a \$50 annual account fee. For accounts that are valued \$25,000 to \$99,999 the custodian charges a \$75 annual account fee. For accounts that are valued greater than \$100,000 the custodian charges a \$100 annual account fee. These custodial fees are charged quarterly in arrears. Due to the custodial fee, some accounts could pay an effective rate greater than 1.65% annually.

The client will incur certain charges imposed by the investment company, mutual fund, custodian, or third parties other than FFS and Advisor in connection with investments made through the account, which are typically disclosed in the applicable prospectus or agreement. The custodian will receive and retain (i) Rule 12b-1 fees, shareholder servicing fee, directed commissions, administrative and sub-administrative fees, and/or other revenue sharing payments from (a) mutual funds in which assets of the account are invested, and/or (b) from other persons connected with such mutual funds; (ii) fees or interest earned from uninvested cash balances in excess of interest paid to the client on such cash balances; and/or (iii) fees from non-mutual fund trading. The client understands and acknowledges that fees and interest referenced in the preceding sentence will be retained by custodian, without compensation to FFS, the IAR, or the client.

For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document. All fees are fully disclosed in the Independence Advisory Agreement, custodial agreement(s) or in the applicable prospectus. The custodian will retain custodial fees, and any 12b-1 and shareholder services fees received from the client's account holdings.

IV. Freedom Capital Management Strategies®

FCMS Private Wealth Solutions

Private Wealth Solutions is the Firm's co-advised offering through Maple Capital Management, Inc. ("Maple Capital"). Client will pay an annual fee to participate in the program, as negotiated by IAR and client. The annual fee will be assessed quarterly in advance, based upon the market value of cash and securities in the account at the end of the immediately preceding quarter. If the client establishes an account at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, the initial fees will be applied on a pro rata basis. If the client deposits additional cash or securities exceeding \$250,000 into an account after the first day of any calendar quarter, the additional deposit will be treated as a new account opened mid-quarter and will be subject to a fee prorated based on the number of days remaining in the quarter. For partial account withdrawals in excess of \$250,000 within a billing period, a credit will be applied against the next quarter's fee in the amount of the unearned fee. The administration fees charged by Maple Capital are exclusive of, and in addition to, FFS' IAR investment advisory fee. Complete disclosures regarding the fees, expenses, and other charges for participation in this program are set forth in the separate client agreement and Maple Capital Form ADV2A which is provided to the client prior to establishing the account.

The amount of the fee will vary depending on the strategies selected and client's assets invested within the program but will not exceed 1.70% of the first \$1,000,000 of market value and 1.40% thereafter, annually. In addition, these fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services FFS and the IAR will receive a portion of the fees and charges as compensation for the services performed.

In addition to the above-described fee, the client may also incur indirect fees imbedded within mutual funds, exchange traded funds, third-party investment management programs and outside partnerships. Neither FFS, the IAR, nor Maple Capital will share in the fee nor receive any compensation for the use of such products in the management of the account; and clients can terminate the account at any time upon written notice to FFS or the IAR. FFS or the IAR can terminate the account by providing at least ten (10) days prior written notice to the client. In the event of termination by either party, any fees paid in advance will be prorated to the date of cessation of management activities, and any unearned portion of prepaid fees will be refunded to the client.

FCMS Managed Accounts

Clients will pay FFS annual fees to participate in the program, as negotiated by IAR and client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. These fees are paid in quarterly installments, in advance and will be deducted from the account. Fees for the program typically do not exceed 2.75% annually. FFS may receive differentiated compensation as a result of the model selected by the IAR, as disclosed in the Advisory Agreement.

FCMS Managed Accounts do not require a minimum account balance. However, investment minimums apply to certain strategies within the program. In addition to the annual fees described above, the custodian charges a flat annual fee on the account. For accounts that are valued less than \$25,000 the custodian charges a \$50 annual account fee. For accounts that are valued \$25,000 to \$99,999 the custodian charges a \$75 annual account fee. For accounts that are valued greater than \$100,000 the custodian charges a \$100 annual account fee. These custodial fees are charged quarterly in arrears. Due to the custodial fee, some accounts could pay an effective rate greater than 2.75% annually.

The initial fee is due at the beginning of the quarter following execution of the agreement and will include the prorated fee for the initial quarter in addition to the standard quarterly fee for the upcoming quarter. Fees are due in advance and deducted directly from the client account.

Client will incur certain charges imposed by investment company, mutual fund, custodian, or third parties other than FFS and Advisor in connection with investments made through the account, which are typically disclosed in the applicable prospectus or agreement. Custodian will receive and retain (i) Rule 12b-1 fees,

shareholder servicing, directed commissions, administrative and sub-administrative fees, and/or other revenue sharing payments from (a) mutual funds in which assets of the account are invested, and/or (b) from other persons connected with such mutual funds; (ii) fees or interest earned from uninvested cash balances in excess of interest paid to Client on such cash balances; and/or (iii) fees from non-mutual fund trading. All fees and interest referenced in the preceding sentence will be retained by Custodian, without compensation to FFS, Advisor or Client.

For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see Program Choice Conflicts of Interest located in Item 4 of this document. All fees are fully disclosed in the FCMS Managed Accounts Agreement, custodial agreement(s) or in the applicable prospectus. The custodian will retain custodial fees, and any 12b-1 and shareholder services fees received from the client's account holdings.

Termination of an account will not affect the liabilities or obligations of the client as to transactions initiated prior to termination. If the client terminates the relationship within five (5) business days of signing the agreement, the client will receive a full refund of fees paid. In the event of termination by either party, any fees paid in advance will be prorated to the date of cessation of management activities, and any unearned portion of prepaid fees will be refunded to the client.

FCMS Freedom Independence Plan™

The plan will pay FFS an annual advisory fee, as negotiated by IAR and client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different plans paying different fees for similar services. The fee is paid in monthly or quarterly installments, as described in the client agreement, in arrears, and the client authorizes the plan to remit the fees to be paid directly to FFS from the plan assets to be deducted from the participants accounts by the plan's record keeper.

The amount of the advisory fee will vary by plan and may be based on a percentage of plan assets or a flat amount agreed upon between the IAR and client. If the fee is based on a percentage of plan assets, the annual fee will not exceed 2.00% of plan assets. If the fee is a flat fee agreed upon between the IAR and the client. The recordkeeper and third-party administrator will charge their own separate fees that are not considered in the 2% advisory fee and FFS does not receive any of these fees. The plan will pay these fees through their plan's record keeper (or other custodian of the plan's assets) directly to FFS and/or IAR from the plan assets. Notwithstanding the obligation to pay the fees, a client can elect within their sole discretion to pay any or all fees to FFS and/or the IAR in lieu of payment through the plan by remitting a check payable to the record keeper. Any fees remaining unpaid after 30 business days from date of invoice will be due, payable, and collected immediately through the plan.

The client acknowledges that FFS and/or its affiliates are prohibited from receiving fees from mutual funds, or their distributors, that are offered as investment alternatives under the plan. These fees consist of, but are not limited to, 12b-1 fees, shareholder service fees, sub-transfer agency fees, and/or other similar fees, and are in addition to the fees charged for investment advisory services.

The client shall be entitled to terminate the plan agreement within five (5) business days of the execution of the agreement without incurring a penalty or charge. Otherwise, either party can terminate upon 30 days prior written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, FFS and the IAR shall be entitled to a pro-rata amount of compensation. Such termination will not, however, affect the liabilities or obligations arising from transactions initiated prior to such termination, and such liabilities and obligations shall survive any expiration or termination of the account.

The FreedomStrategies.com

The client will pay FFS a fee to participate in the program. The fee for the program is \$500 annually, paid in quarterly installments, in arrears. Billing will not begin until the client has been in the program for one full

quarter. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services.

V. Nationwide Variable Annuity

The client will pay FFS an annual fee, as negotiated by IAR and the client. These fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services. The fee is paid in monthly installments, in arrears. The amount of the advisory fee will not exceed 1.50% annually, which is in addition to any other fees and expenses charged by Nationwide, including but not limited to Nationwide's \$20 monthly fee.

Client fees for accounts held directly with Nationwide will be billed to the account designated by the client. These fees could come directly from the client's Nationwide Variable Annuity, or an account held with another custodian. Through the account agreement, the client authorizes these fees to be directly remitted to FFS on a periodic basis. FFS will provide a portion of these fees to the IAR for services provided. If client fees are deducted from client's Nationwide Variable Annuity, it could create a taxable event for the client. Client should review any tax implications regarding fees paid from their Nationwide Variable Annuity with their tax professional. Further, if securities are liquidated from other accounts to pay client fees it could also have tax implications that should be reviewed with the client's tax professional.

The client authorizes FFS to act upon instruction from client to pay the advisory fees charged by IAR from the account pursuant to the written advisory agreement between client and IAR. The payment of such fees will be treated as a withdrawal under the terms of the account agreement. Client acknowledges that a withdrawal from the account to pay such fees could incur a withdrawal charge, if applicable, during the surrender charge period, if applicable, and thus could require FFS to liquidate a larger dollar amount than the advisory fees due. Client further acknowledges that withdrawals could negatively impact any guarantees associated with certain optional benefit riders.

Fees will be deducted pro rata as the default. Systematic fees will be paid on the last calendar day of each month- end. Any recurring systematic fees billed in arrears will be prorated and paid upon surrender or annuitization of the account, or termination of IAR from the account.

In the event the client terminates that account, FFS will not advise Nationwide to deliver funds held in the account. The client must provide delivery instructions directly to Nationwide. The client is to contact Nationwide directly regarding all fees and charges that will remain in effect from the termination date.

VI. Financial Planning

An IAR can be engaged to create a financial plan and provide guidance on an on-going basis, at specified intervals, or as a one-time event. The IAR can request a deposit prior to the delivery of the financial plan and recommendations. IAR's have the choice of charging fees at a flat rate or a certain fee per hour, per week, or per month. In the case of ongoing financial planning, the fee can be based on a percentage of the asset value of the client's accounts for the plan provided. Financial plans are priced according to the degree of complexity associated with the client's situation. Financial planning fees shall generally not exceed a flat rate of \$12,500, or \$500 per hour, or \$7,500 per year. However, based upon individual circumstances, IAR's are authorized to negotiate a higher fee. Financial planning fees are negotiable, which will result in different clients paying different fees for similar services.

Plans must be delivered no later than six months from the date of payment of financial planning fee deposit in accordance with the financial planning agreement. A financial planning fee deposit cannot exceed \$1,200 and if a plan is not delivered within six months from the date of the agreement, the IAR is required to return the funds received or be granted an extension by the client for the plan delivery. A client can terminate a financial planning agreement without penalty by providing written notice within five (5) business days of

receiving the agreement. Client is required to make payments for financial planning to FFS.

VII. 1031 Exchange Consulting

The IAR consulting services fee charged to the client for 1031 Exchange recommendations are not to exceed 3% of the assets included in the recommendations concerning the 1031 assessment. Clients sign written agreements with their qualified intermediaries which provide that FFS fees are billed to the qualified intermediary, chosen by the client, and the qualified intermediary pays the fee to FFS on the client's behalf.

Additional Fee Information

Tiered or Breakpoint Billing

FFS and the IAR may offer tiered or breakpoint billing schedules, at the discretion of the IAR. A breakpoint billing schedule considers the account value and compares it to a set fee schedule. Based upon the value of the account at the end of the billing period, the account's billable fee rate could decline as the value of the account reaches the next fee rate, or breakpoint. The account's billable fee rate could also increase if an account value declines. The total value of the account is compared against the fee rate for the respective value range that corresponds with the account value to determine the total account fee for that period. A tiered billing schedule looks at the account value and compares it to a set fee schedule. Based upon the value of the account at the end of the billing period, the account's combined billable fee rate could decline as the value of reaches the next fee rate, or tier. The difference between a breakpoint schedule and a tier schedule is as follows: breakpoint fees assess the appropriate fee level on the entire account balance while tiered fees charge the appropriate fee level on each "tier" of account value. Tiered and breakpoint billing schedules and availability vary for each program. For clients that hold accounts in multiple FFS Advisory programs, FFS does not calculate the combined account balances across FFS Advisory programs as a part of a breakpoint or tiered billing for each program individually. Aggregated breakpoint or tiered billing for multiple accounts only potentially applies to accounts held within the same FFS program. Further, FFS does not automatically aggregate accounts for breakpoint or tiered billing. There is no requirement that FFS or IAR offer a client breakpoint or tiered billing, which creates a conflict of interest for the IAR and the Firm, which could negatively impact the client. The client may be able to receive the same, or similar investment products and/or services for less cost through a different advisor.

All fees and arrangements are negotiable and FFS and/or the IAR are allowed to waive a particular fee whether on an ongoing or a one-time basis, in its sole discretion. The Firm could also allow for the aggregation of assets among a client's "related" managed accounts for purposes of determining the total value and the applicable advisory fee to be paid by a client. FFS reserves the right to determine whether client accounts are "related" for purposes of aggregating a client's accounts together for a reduction in the percentage fee amount. FFS does not automatically aggregate assets from "related" accounts for purposes of providing tiered billing. This is determined by IAR and the client as they negotiate the overall client fee structure. The absence of such automation creates a conflict of interest as the IAR will potentially receive a higher overall fee if the accounts are not aggregated.

Client can request that FFS and IAR consider the size of the total household relationship, for purposes of achieving a fee reduction through breakpoint or tiered billing. An example of a household could include, but is not necessarily, the main account holder, spouse, parents, grandparents, children, and grandchildren. It is the client's responsibility to inform the IAR of the potential opportunity to household accounts.

Mutual Fund Share Class Selection

Mutual funds offer many different share classes for purchase by clients. In determining which share class to purchase for a client's account, it is the IAR's intention to select the share class with the lowest total expenses that are available for purchase through the Firm's custodians that also meet any required purchase guidelines of the mutual fund and the client investment objective. FFS makes best efforts to invest in the lowest-cost share class available to the client in conformity with its policies and procedures. Institutional shares often have lower internal costs, but not all mutual fund families offer an institutional share class and not all accounts are eligible to purchase

institutional class shares. The availability of a particular mutual fund share class often depends on factors such as the size of a client's investment, the client's custodian, the account type, whether the mutual funds sponsor is willing to grant a waiver, and the amount of aggregate client investments in the Fund, either generally or through a particular custodian. FFS maintains policies and procedures for the selection of mutual fund share classes and conducts periodic training with all advisors on this process.

There are instances in which FFS could recommend a mutual fund that carries a 12(b)-1 fee, even when a lower-cost share class is available for the same fund. For example, a lower-cost class share may not be available to FFS due to investment minimums. In other cases, mutual funds charging 12(b)-1 fees are transferred into an FFS account. In which case the Firm may recommend the client holds the existing share class, instead of selling the fund and buying a lower-cost share, which could result in a tax liability. In addition, some mutual funds charge 12(b)-1 fees, but no transaction fees, while other share classes in the same fund family do not charge 12(b)-1 fees but do charge transaction fees. Mutual funds charging 12(b)-1 fees will be recommended when the overall cost is seen as a benefit to the client if the anticipated transaction fees exceed the anticipated 12(b)-1 fees. When recommending a particular mutual fund share class, the different available share classes are compared and reviewed along with the anticipated investment timeframe, potential tax consequences, future anticipated transactions, and other costs to determine the best selection for the client at that time. FFS does not receive any part of these fees charged by Mutual Funds.

The Management Fee also does not cover fees and charges in connection with: debit balances; margin interest; odd-lot differentials; IRA fees; transfer taxes; exchange fees; wire transfers; extensions; non-sufficient funds; mailgrams; legal transfers; bank wires; postage; costs associated with exchanging foreign currencies; and SEC fees or other fees or taxes required by law.

FFS believes its fees are reasonable considering the services provided and as a fiduciary, both FFS and the IAR will act in the clients best interest. However, clients should be aware that fees may be higher than those otherwise available if advisory services and brokerage services were provided separately for a discrete fee or if an investment Advisor were to select a brokerage account and negotiate commissions in the absence of the extra consulting service provided. The comparison is dependent upon several factors, including the frequency of brokerage activity in the client's account, the size of the account under management, and any negotiated fee arrangements with respect to the account. An investor should consider these factors prior to opening an Advisory Account with FFS. Clients should consider the value of the additional consulting services when making such comparisons. The combination of custodial, consulting, and brokerage services may not be available separately or may require multiple accounts, documentation, and fees. All fees described herein are subject to negotiation depending on a range of factors including, but not limited to, account size and overall range of services requested.

Termination of Accounts

Either the client or FFS can terminate the account for any reason, subject to any requirements or limitations outlined in the Advisory Agreement. Client can terminate effective upon written notice to FFS and/or the IAR. FFS and/or IAR can terminate for any reason, including client's failure to promptly pay fees and charges, or for any conduct or situation that in FFS' judgment impairs an effective relationship between the parties, effective upon written notice to the client.

In the event of termination, FFS will advise the clearing/custodian firm to deliver securities and funds held in the account as directed by the client, unless client requests that the account be liquidated. All fees and charges will remain in effect for 30 business days from the termination date. Should a client not provide delivery instructions upon termination, FFS reserves the right to register securities in the client's name and ship such securities to the client, all at the expense of the client.

Upon notification of the death of a client, FFS will cease advisory services. No additional trading or liquidations will occur, and the account will be frozen until the necessary documents are provided to transfer the account to the individual's estate, joint owner, or beneficiary, as applicable based on the account type and instructions set up by

the client. In addition, all POAs will be cancelled. Any prepaid, asset-based fees will be prorated to the date FFS was notified and rebated to the client.

Termination of an account will not affect the liabilities or obligations of the client as to transactions initiated prior to termination. In the event of a termination, FFS reserves the right to apply the pro-rata fees and execution charges for the month that are owed based upon custodian's regular transaction charges and service fees. If the client terminates the relationship within five (5) business days of signing the Independence Advisory agreement, the client will receive a full refund of fees paid.

Item 6 - Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

FFS and its IARs do not charge performance-based fees. Neither FFS nor IAR will be compensated by sharing in capital gains or capital appreciation of the funds/securities maintained in the account.

Item 7 - Types of Clients

FFS provides and offers investment advisory services to a broad array of clients, including individuals, high net worth individuals, pension and profit-sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, and corporations or other businesses. The majority of FFS clients are retail clients that fall under the "Individuals (other than high-net-worth individuals)" category. This category includes, but is not limited to, individual, joint, trust, IRA, 401(k) participant, and custodial accounts.

The minimum account size varies by the advisory service:

- I. Independence Advisory Accounts
 - a. Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied at Pershing– \$25,000
 - b. Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied at Axos– \$5,000
 - c. Independence Advisory Accounts Custodied at Schwab– \$5,000
 - d. Independence Advisory for Held Away 401(k) Accounts – No Minimum
- II. Third-Party Asset Manager – will vary based upon sponsoring company standards
- III. Managed Portfolio Program – \$10,000
- IV. Freedom Capital Management Strategies®
 - a. FCMS Managed Accounts – no account minimum but there are investment minimums for certain strategies within the program
 - b. Private Wealth Solutions – Typically \$750,000 at the client household level
 - c. Freedom Independence Plan™ – no minimum
 - d. FreedomStrategies.com– no minimum
- V. Nationwide Variable Annuity – \$15,000

Under certain circumstances, FFS may waive the minimum account size requirement and accept accounts less than minimums noted. Such circumstances may include but not be limited to anticipated additional assets to be managed or whether the client or any family members have assets under management with FFS.

Item 8 - Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

FFS and/or IARs, depending on the program, are responsible for determining and implementing investment advice under the supervision of the Firm. The IAR can perform various techniques in analyzing investments for advisory clients which could include, but are not limited to, fundamental analysis, technical analysis, and cyclical analysis. There is no guarantee, stated or implied, that the client's investment goals or objectives will be achieved. Investing

in securities involves risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. As a result of this inherent risk, FFS and its IARs cannot represent, guarantee, or even imply that the methods of analysis used can accurately forecast future returns, accurately identify market highs and lows, or protect clients from investment losses as a result of economic conditions, market downturns and other market conditions.

All methods of analysis and investment strategies involve investment risks, including the risk of loss. Some of the material risks involved in technical analysis includes the potential for a lack of consideration given to the intrinsic value of specific investments. Technical analysis focuses primarily on economic factors and market conditions, which could overlook variables specific to a particular investment. Conversely, fundamental analysis generally focuses on more specific variables, such as a public companies financial disclosures, sales, earnings, debt, management, and assets. As a result, there is a risk that fundamental analysis omits the overall state of the economy and markets as a factor. Cyclical analysis is also subject to material risks, which include uncertainty over how long market cycles will last, when they will peak and when they will reach a bottom.

The majority of investment recommendations made by IARs through the Firm's advisory services programs involve investment risks, including the risk of loss. Many of the investment recommendations made by IAR's through the Firm's advisory services programs also involve the potential for tax implications as a result of income and capital gains, including capital gains distributions by mutual funds. Clients could have to pay taxes on these gains and/or distributions even if the fund performed poorly or lost value after shares were purchased. Lack of control is also a risk that clients encounter, clients and IARs typically cannot ascertain the exact make-up of a fund's portfolio at any given time, nor can they directly influence which securities the fund manager buys and sells or the timing of the manager's purchase and sale transactions. Another risk is price uncertainty. Mutual fund investors face this risk because the price at which shares are purchased and sold is based on the fund's net asset value, which will not be calculated until several hours after the client's purchase or sale transaction has already been processed. Clients should read the mutual fund's prospectus and shareholder reports to learn about its investment strategy and risks.

Investment strategies utilized by IARs could involve frequent trading of securities. If the IAR strategy utilizes frequent trading, this will negatively affect the client's investment performance through increased brokerage and transaction costs.

Some of the common risks clients should consider prior to investing include, but are not limited to:

- **Market Risk**
Even a long-term investment approach cannot guarantee a profit. Economic, political and issuer- specific events will cause the value of securities to rise or fall. Because the value of investment portfolios will fluctuate, there is the risk that a client will lose money and investments could be worth more or less upon liquidation.
- **Interest Rate Risk**
When interest rates increase, the value of the account's fixed income investments will generally decline, and the account's share value could be reduced. This effect is typically more pronounced for intermediate and longer-term obligations. This effect is also typically more pronounced for mortgage- and other asset-backed securities, the value of which could fluctuate more significantly in response to interest rate changes. When interest rates decrease, the account's current income could also decline.
- **Inflation Risk**
Inflation will erode the buying-power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same or increases at a rate lower than the inflation rate.
- **Reinvestment Risk**
This is the risk that future proceeds from investments might have to be reinvested at a potentially lower rate of return (i.e., interest rate). This primarily relates to fixed income securities.

- Business Risk

These risks are associated with a particular industry or a particular company within an industry. For example, oil-drilling companies depend on finding oil and then refining it, a lengthy process, before they can generate a profit. They carry a higher risk of profitability decline than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter the economic environment.

- Liquidity Risk

Liquidity is the ability to readily convert an investment into cash. Generally, assets are more liquid if many investors or traders are interested in a standardized product. For example, Treasury Bills are highly liquid, while real estate properties are not.

- Financial Risk

Excessive borrowing to finance a business' operations increases the risk of achieving profitability, because the company must meet the terms of its financing obligations in good times and bad. During periods of financial stress, the inability to meet loan obligations could result in bankruptcy or a declining market value of the business.

- Mutual Fund and ETF Performance

FFS and/or IARs select mutual funds and ETFs in a client's portfolio based on a variety of criteria. However, FFS depends on the manager of such funds to select individual investments in accordance with their stated investment strategy. Should a fund manager's portfolio selection deviate from such strategy, a given investment might underperform or face enhanced risk.

- Pandemics and Other Public Health Crisis

Pandemics and other health crises, such as the outbreak of an infectious disease such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, avian flu, H1N1/09 flu and COVID-19 or any other serious public health concerns, together with any resulting restrictions on travel or quarantines imposed, could have a negative impact on the economy, and business activity in any of the areas in which client investments may be located. Such disruption, or the fear of such disruption, could have a significant and adverse impact on the securities markets, lead to increased short-term market volatility or a significant market downturn, and may have adverse long-term effects on world economies and markets generally. A continued outbreak may have a material and adverse impact on your investment returns. The impact of a public health crisis such as the COVID-19 (or any future pandemic, epidemic or outbreak of a contagious disease) is difficult to predict, which presents material uncertainty and risk with respect to the performance of your investments.

- Cybersecurity Risk

The information technology systems and networks that FFS and its third-party service providers use to provide services to FFS clients employ various controls, which are designed to prevent cybersecurity incidents stemming from intentional or unintentional actions that could cause significant interruptions in FFS operations and result in the unauthorized acquisition or use of clients' confidential, non-public personal information. Clients and FFS are nonetheless subject to the risk of cybersecurity incidents that could ultimately cause them to incur losses, including for example: misuse of personal non-public information, financial losses, cost, and reputational damage to respond to regulatory obligations, other costs associated with corrective measures, and loss from damage or interruption to systems. Although FFS has established its systems to reduce the risk of cybersecurity incidents from coming to fruition, there is no guarantee that these efforts will always be successful, especially considering that FFS does not directly control the cybersecurity measures and policies employed by third-party service providers. Clients could incur similar adverse consequences resulting from cybersecurity incidents that more directly affect issuers of securities in which those clients invest, broker-dealers, qualified custodians, governmental and

other regulatory authorities, exchange and other financial market operators, or other financial institutions.

Item 9 - Disciplinary Information

As a Registered Investment Adviser, FFS is required to disclose all material facts regarding any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's evaluation of FFS or the integrity of its management.

On September 30, 2019, FFS agreed to a settlement with the SEC in which the SEC found that FFS failed to meet best execution requirements, made inadequate disclosure to advisory clients about conflicts of interest related to the receipt of 12b-1 fees and/or its selection of mutual fund share classes that pay such fees, and that it failed to adopt policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent these deficiencies.

During the period January 1, 2014, through September 30, 2016, for investment advisory accounts held at Trust Company of America and January 1, 2014, through January 31, 2017, for investment advisory accounts held at Pershing. FFS purchased mutual fund share classes that charged 12b-1 fees instead of lower-cost share classes of the same mutual funds for which the clients were eligible.

Without admitting or denying the findings, FFS consented to a cease-and-desist order, a censure, reimbursement of \$1,246,133.60, prejudgment interest of \$229,332.28, and a civil penalty of \$140,000.00.

Item 10 - Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

FFS is also a broker-dealer registered with the Securities Exchange Commission ("SEC") and a member of Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA"). FFS uses Pershing, LLC as its clearing firm for brokerage business. In an IAR's separate capacity as a Registered Representative of the broker-dealer, they are able to implement securities transactions for advisory clients for separate and typical commission compensation. This means that IAR's of FFS will also receive commissions for the sale of investment products through the registered broker-dealer if a client purchases a commissionable product through an IAR who is also a registered representative. The IAR will let the client know in which capacity, IAR or registered representative, he/she is acting prior to establishing the account. Commissions received by a registered representative for the sale of these investment products through the registered broker-dealer will be in addition to, and separate than, any advisory fees received for services rendered as an IAR of FFS. All fees earned by an IAR of FFS will be fully disclosed and agreed to in writing by all clients prior to the execution of an advisory account or transaction. Commissions charged by FFS will be higher than commissions charged by some other broker-dealers, so recommending that such transactions be executed with FFS could result in additional cost to the client, which creates a conflict of interest for the IAR and the firm. For more information about how account charges could lead to conflicts of interest, see *Program Choice Conflicts of Interest* located in Item 4 of this document.

For broker-dealer services, FFS and/or the IAR will receive compensation for such transactions, which compensation is separate and distinct from the IAR's compensation related to providing investment advisory services. From time to time, IAR's of the Firm will recommend that clients buy or sell securities or investment products that the IAR also owns. In such circumstances, the IAR shall adhere to the Firm's Code of Ethics.

FFS representatives have access to insurance products through Founders Financial Securities Insurance Agency, an affiliate of FFS ("FFS Ins. Agency"). As such, FFS Ins. Agency distributes products and does not open or maintain customer accounts or hold customer funds or securities.

Some IARs are also licensed independent insurance agents and will recommend or sell clients insurance products. Clients are under no obligation to purchase these products from the IAR. In their separate capacities as an independent insurance agent, the IAR will be able to implement insurance transactions for advisory clients for separate and typical commission compensation. Insurance compensation earned by these persons are separate and in addition to investment management and advisory fees.

All clients are advised that broker-dealer services (and insurance) are separate from advisory services offered pursuant to this brochure, and IARs will be compensated for making recommendations involving the broker-dealer or insurer, including a share of commissions.

Some IARs are also Certified Public Accountants ("CPA"). In their separate capacities as CPAs, these individuals will be able to provide accounting and tax services for advisory clients for separate and typical compensation. Clients are under no obligation to purchase these services from the IAR. Such services are not advisory services.

Some IARs are licensed mortgage loan originators. In their separate capacity, these individuals will engage in loan origination, mortgage lending and servicing, and, as compensation for such services, are entitled to receive certain percentages of lending, origination, and servicing fees and expenses. The financial information and opportunity that these IARs must communicate with the client, could influence investment decisions or investment recommendations, and may constitute a conflict of interest. There are no additional financial incentives, bonuses, or additional compensation to an IAR to participate in this outside business activity and FFS has no responsibility for the supervision of this activity. Clients should know that they may be able to secure a mortgage loan through other originators that could provide lower percentages of lending and lower fees for origination and servicing.

FFS offers certain persons, including issuers of securities and/or sponsors of insurance products, the opportunity to communicate and otherwise engage with IARs via the Firm's electronic platforms and, in some cases, in person. The purpose is to educate IARs on financial products and resources and make IARs aware of how these financial products could potentially help a client achieve their investment goals. These companies pay the Firm a fee for these opportunities. The opportunity that companies must communicate with the Firm and its investment adviser representatives, could influence investment decisions or investment recommendations, and may constitute a conflict of interest because the company has an opportunity to communicate directly with IARs that other service providers and investment managers may not have. There are no requirements that IAR's recommend the investment products or services of these companies. There are no additional financial incentives, bonuses, or additional compensation to an advisor to recommend these companies' products. As of the date of this brochure, sponsors include:

Brokers' Service Marketing Group
Brighthouse Financial
Equitable Holdings, Inc.
Prudential Insurance Company

Lincoln Financial Distributors
Jackson National
Realized Holdings
Core Income

In addition, some firms that FFS partners with will provide contributions toward annual Firm events. Current sponsors to these events include:

Axos Clearing LLC

FFS will add or eliminate sponsors from time-to-time without prior notice.

As stated above, FFS Registered Representatives and IARs do not receive additional compensation for selling securities offered by a sponsor. Furthermore, they are not required to achieve a sales quota with respect to investments or services offered by any of the above sponsors. The Firm also has a policy against accepting reimbursement through brokerage transactions directed to FFS by sponsors. However, the opportunity that sponsors must communicate with FFS and the IARs could influence investment decisions or investment recommendations.

The Firm believes that, in general, these firms offer investment and advisory products and services of a high quality. However, FFS does not guarantee that these products and services will perform better than others that are available, and encourages its Registered Representatives, IARs, and clients to consider any company whose products and services might be suitable for the customer.

Item 11 - Code of Ethics

FFS has adopted a Code of Ethics (“the Code”) for the Firm’s supervised persons to comply with SEC Rule 204A. The Code describes FFS and the IAR standards of business conduct and FFS and the IAR fiduciary duty to clients. The Code includes, but is not limited to, provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts, the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items to FFS, and personal securities trading. All supervised persons must acknowledge the terms of the Code annually, or as the Code is amended from time to time. FFS employees and persons associated with FFS are required to follow the Code.

FFS supervised persons are allowed to buy or sell securities recommended to clients. Subject to satisfying this policy and applicable laws, employees and persons associated with FFS and its affiliates may trade for their own accounts in securities which are recommended to and/or purchased by or for clients. The Code is designed to ensure that the personal securities transactions, activities, and interests of FFS IARs and employees will not interfere with making and implementing decisions in the best interest of advisory clients, while, at the same time, allowing IARs and employees the opportunity to invest for their own accounts. Under the Code certain classes of securities have been designated as exempt transactions, based upon a determination that these would not materially interfere with the best interest of clients. In addition, the Code requires pre-approval of many transactions, and restricts trading in close proximity to client trading activity. Nonetheless, because the Code in some circumstances would permit employees to invest in the same securities as clients, there is a possibility that employees might benefit from market activity by a client and that such benefit could constitute a conflict of interest with clients. FFS employees and persons associated with FFS are monitored under the Code to identify and reasonably prevent conflicts of interest between employees and clients.

Certain affiliated accounts are allowed to trade in the same securities with client accounts on an aggregated basis when consistent with the Firm’s obligation of best execution. In such circumstances, the affiliated and client accounts will share commission costs equally and receive securities at a total average price. FFS will retain records of the trade order (specifying each participating account) and its allocation, which will be completed prior to the entry of the aggregated order. Completed orders will be allocated as specified in the initial trade order. Partially filled orders will be allocated on a pro rata basis. Any exceptions will be explained on the transaction confirmation.

It is FFS’s policy not to affect any principal or agency cross-securities transactions for client accounts. FFS will not affect cross trades between client accounts. Principal transactions are generally defined as transactions where an investment advisor firm, acting as principal for its own account or the account of an affiliated broker-dealer, buys from or sells any security to any advisory client. A principal transaction could also be deemed to have occurred if a security is crossed between an affiliated hedge fund and another client account. An agency cross transaction is a transaction where a person acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which the investment adviser, or any person controlled by or under common control with the investment adviser, acts as broker for both the advisory client and for another person on the other side of the transaction.

Clients or prospective clients can request a copy of the Code of Ethics by contacting us at 888-523-1162.

Item 12 - Brokerage Practices

FFS utilizes Axos, Schwab, and Pershing to custody advisory assets and to execute advisory account transactions in connection with investment advisory programs the Firm offers to clients. Transactions executed through any of these firms are subject to FFS duty to obtain “best execution,” i.e., a price that is as favorable to the client as possible under the prevailing market conditions. While FFS will make every attempt to obtain the best execution possible, there is no assurance that it will be obtained.

FFS will act in the best interests of the client to seek to obtain the best price and execution for transactions. The

Firm will seek the best price in the marketplace as well as ensure that, in executing client transactions, clients do not incur unnecessary costs and charges. This could mean that FFS does not get the lowest possible commission cost if a transaction represents the best qualitative value for a client. In addition, whenever trading can create a conflicting interest between FFS and clients, the Firm will obtain consent from the client before engaging in the activity after providing full and fair disclosure of all material facts.

In connection with all third-party asset managers, the third-party asset manager's choice of custodian and executing broker will be limited to those choices offered by the third-party asset managers.

FFS does not engage in any soft dollar practice. The Firm does not receive benefits from any broker-dealer as a result of commissions generated from financial transactions executed in client accounts by that broker-dealer.

The Firm is permitted to aggregate client orders with those of other clients in a bunched trade or trades when securities are purchased or sold. For each account included in the bunched trade, FFS must reasonably believe that the bunched order is consistent with the Firm's duty to seek best execution and benefit each client participating in the aggregated order. The average price per share of each bunched trade is allocated to each account that participates in the bunched trade. Accounts that participate in bunched trades are charged transaction costs, if applicable, in accordance with their advisory contracts.

If a bunched order cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated in a manner that is consistent with the initial pre-allocation. Partial fills will be allocated in a way that does not consistently advantage or disadvantage particular client accounts and are generally filled pro-rata among participating accounts.

The aggregation and allocation practices of mutual funds and third-party money managers that the Firm's IARs recommend to a client are disclosed in the respective mutual fund prospectuses and third-party money manager disclosure documents which are provided to the client at, or before, account opening.

Item 13 - Review of Accounts

A sample of all accounts will be reviewed no less than monthly, by FFS' Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO"), or designated individual(s) under the supervision of the CCO. FFS will consider several factors to determine which accounts should be reviewed, which may include but are not limited to: investment objectives versus management style, targeted allocation versus current allocation, suitability, performance, number of trades, and concentrated positions/diversification.

Further, each advisory program has its own unique characteristics that FFS will consider when assessing how many accounts make an appropriate representative sample and what factors should be considered in said review.

Supervisory review of advisory accounts will include a review of account activity and other triggering factors such as fees charged, account performance and performance reports, customer complaints, products used, best execution, security concentration and other triggering factors as determined by the reviewer(s).

Financial planning services and/or fee-based insurance plans can include some of the above, but the review will mainly focus on fees charged in relation to a financial and/or insurance plan, and documents in support of the financial and/or insurance plan which could include worksheets, schedules, diagrams, and other pertinent information.

Examples of situations that could prompt FFS to conduct more frequent reviews include the following: performance is not in line with the client's risk tolerance, there is a material change in investment objectives, a significant addition or withdrawal of capital is made, rebalancing of the portfolio if current allocation and targeted allocation are not consistent, frequency of trades is not in line with objectives and current account type, or a

concentrated position that results in account volatility.

Accounts under management will be provided statements at least quarterly, and directly from the account custodian. For all accounts, FFS or the IAR will contact the client at least annually to request current information to determine whether there have been any changes in the information provided about client risk tolerance or objectives. Further, the IAR strives to conduct client reviews on an annual basis, or more frequently at the client's request. The client must inform FFS or the IAR in writing of any material changes to their account information or financial circumstances that might affect the way their assets should be invested. Clients can contact FFS during normal business hours to consult regarding the management of their account(s).

Item 14 - Client Referrals and Other Compensation

The Firm will occasionally enter into agreements with individuals who will promote the Firm. The agreements comply with SEC rule 206(4)-1 promulgated under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. If a client is introduced to FFS by a promoter, FFS will pay that promoter a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-1 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee will be paid solely from advisory fees and will not result in any additional charge to the client.

The promoter, at the time of the referral, will disclose the nature of his/her/its promoter relationship, and provide each prospective client with a copy of the written disclosure statement from the promoter to the client disclosing the terms of the arrangement between the Firm and the promoter, including the compensation to be received by the promoter from FFS.

At this time, two IARs of the Firm have one promotor relationship each. The promotor and the IAR have been properly educated on the obligations and disclosures required in accordance with SEC rule 206(4)-1.

FFS has entered into agreements to allow IARs to refer clients to other Investment Advisors as a promoter. If a client is referred to another Investment Advisor at the time of the referral, the IAR is required to disclose the nature of the promoter relationship and provide each prospective client with a copy of the written disclosure statement disclosing the terms of the arrangement between the other Investment Advisor and the promoter, including the compensation to be received by the promoter from the Investment Manager.

In addition to the compensation payable under their agreement, the other Investment Advisor may enter into other reimbursement arrangements with certain FFS IARs. These arrangements can include the other Investment Advisor's reimbursement of qualified marketing/practice development expenses incurred by the IAR, costs for client events and/or workshops conducted by the FFS IAR, and the other Investment Advisor may also covers travel-related expenses for certain IARs to attend the other Investment Advisor's annual conferences, quarterly meetings, or due diligence visits. These amounts vary depending on the value of the assets on the other Investment Advisor Platform held by clients of the IAR. Full disclosure of this can be found in the other Investment Advisor's ADV 2A. These arrangements are a conflict of interest. However, as a fiduciary, both FFS and the IAR will act in the clients best interest.

FFS IARs may utilize lead generation services for purposes of identifying potential clients. The leads may or may not result in a client relationship. The IAR pays a fee to the lead generation service for access to their focused database of contacts who may be seeking financial services. There is no direct solicitation of clients for the IAR by the lead generation service.

The arrangements described above do not increase the fees payable by the client.

Item 15 - Custody

Client assets will be maintained by an unaffiliated, qualified custodian (e.g., Axos and Schwab), bank, broker/dealer (e.g., Pershing), mutual fund company or transfer agent. Client assets are not held by FFS or any of its affiliates. The client will receive statements at least quarterly from the custodian that holds and maintains their investment

assets. Client understands that the custodian will charge a fee such as, but not limited to: custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer fees, transfer taxes, lost certificate fees, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, postage and handling for paper delivery of statement and trade confirmations, margin and pre-payment fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. FFS and IARs advise the client to carefully review the official custodial records provided to them by the custodian(s) and compare them to all account documents and agreements held by the client. FFS urges the client to carefully review their official custodial records and compare them to any additional account documents that the Firm provides to the client.

Further, each custody firm for any of the aforementioned investment advisory platforms charges a fee for custody services. The payment of such a fee is the responsibility of the client. This fee is expressed as a custody, administrative or record keeping fee on the client fee and billing agreement for each account/plan. FFS does not pay the custody and administrative fees on any platform sponsored by FFS as they are the agreed upon responsibility of the account holder/client.

FFS has constructive custody of client funds and securities due to the ability to deduct advisory fees from accounts. In accordance with custody rules, FFS will ensure that a qualified custodian maintains the account and that clients receive a quarterly account statement from the qualified custodian. Clients can find information about the transmittal of funds on their account statements produced by the client's account custodian.

Item 16 - Investment Discretion

FFS services client accounts on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis, as set forth in the Investment Advisory Agreement. Investment discretion allows FFS, a sub-advisor selected by FFS, and/or the IAR to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold and the dollar value to be bought and sold. Discretion is to be exercised in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives of the client account. When FFS and/or IAR select securities and determine amounts, they observe the investment policies, limitations, and restrictions identified to FFS by the client. Investment guidelines and restrictions must be provided by the client to FFS in writing. Client may request that restrictions or limitations be placed on the purchase of specified securities. All such requests must be in writing and approved by FFS prior to adoption.

However, for certain advisory programs (refer to the investment advisory agreement for details) some clients authorize FFS and/or IAR to act with discretion to purchase/reallocate account holdings that are suitable for the client's risk profile, or a client's risk profile that is more conservative, when in FFS and/or IARs sole discretion thinks it appropriate to do so. Client acknowledges that the exercise of such discretion may result in different investment performance than would result from not exercising such discretion.

Item 17 - Voting Client Securities

For all the advisory services and programs offered through the Firm, neither FFS nor IARs have any authority to vote proxies on the client's behalf. Clients are solely responsible for reviewing and voting proxies for the securities maintained within accounts. Client will receive proxies or other solicitations directly from the custodian and/or transfer agent.

For accounts held in certain programs, the client will appoint the sub-advisor or third-party asset manager as agent and attorney-in-fact with discretion to vote proxies on the client's behalf. Below are the programs and the sub-advisor or third-party asset manager who will vote proxies on behalf of the client:

- FCMS Private Wealth Solutions – Maple Capital
- FCMS Custom Portfolios – Orion Portfolio Solutions
- Independence Manager Exchange - Orion Portfolio Solutions

The client should review the sub-advisors or third-party asset managers disclosure brochure to understand their proxy voting policies and procedures.

Item 18 - Financial Information

As a Registered Investment Adviser, FFS does not allow IARs to take prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees for advisory services six months or more in advance. FFS does not have a financial condition that could impair its ability to meet contractual obligations. Therefore, FFS is not required to provide audited balance sheets.

Additional Information

Privacy Policy

The Firm collects non-public personal information about clients from information received on applications or other forms and information about client transactions with Firm affiliates, others, or the Firm itself. FFS does not disclose any non-public personal information about current or former clients, except as permitted by law or in order to provide the current services. Firm employees have limited access to client personal information based on their responsibilities to provide products or services to clients. The Firm maintains physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards in compliance with federal standards to protect client information. If the IAR servicing a client account leaves FFS to join another firm, the IAR is permitted to retain copies of certain client information so that the IAR can assist with the transfer of the client account and continue to serve the client at their new firm.

“Opting-out” of Third-Party Disclosures

If a client does not want an IAR to retain copies of client non-public personal information when the IAR leaves FFS to join another firm, the client can contact the FFS Compliance Department by calling 888-523-1162.

Class Action Lawsuits

FFS does not determine if securities held by a client are the subject of a class action lawsuit or whether any client is eligible to participate in class action settlements or litigation nor does FFS initiate or participate in litigation to recover damages on client's behalf for injuries as a result of actions, misconduct, or negligence by issuers of securities held by a client.

Business Continuity Plan

FFS has developed a Business Continuity Plan to address how FFS will respond to events that significantly disrupt the operation of FFS business. Since the timing and impact of disasters and disruptions are unpredictable, FFS will be flexible in responding to actual events as they occur.

Within 24 hours after a significant business disruption, FFS plans to quickly recover and resume business operations and respond by safeguarding employees and property, making a financial and operational assessment, protecting the Firm's books and records, and allowing clients to transact business. FFS' business continuity plan is designed to permit the Firm to resume operations as quickly as possible, given the scope and severity of the significant business disruption.

The Firm's business continuity plan addresses: data back-up and recovery; all mission critical systems; financial and operational assessments; alternative communications with customers, employees, and regulators; alternate physical location of employees; critical supplier, contractor, bank, and counter-party impact; regulatory reporting; and assuring clients' prompt access to their funds and securities if FFS is unable to continue as a business.

Contacting Us

If, after a significant business disruption, a client is unable to contact FFS at 888-523-1162, please visit the website at wwwFOUNDERSFINANCIAL.COM to review updated contact information.

Varying Disruptions

Significant business disruptions can vary in their scope, such as disruption that affects only FFS, a single building

housing the Firm, the business district where the Firm is located, the city where FFS is located, or the whole region. Within each of these areas, the severity of the disruption can also vary from minimal to severe. In a disruption to only the Firm or a building housing the Firm, FFS will transfer operations to a local site when needed and expect to recover and resume business within 24 hours. In a disruption affecting the Firm's business district, city, or region, FFS will transfer operations to a site outside of the affected area and recover and resume business within three (3) days. In either situation, FFS plans to continue in business, transfer operations to its clearing firm if necessary, and provide clients with instructions on how to contact FFS through its parent company's web site: wwwFOUNDERSFINANCIAL.COM. If the significant business disruption is so severe that it prevents FFS from remaining in business, FFS will assure client's prompt access to their funds and securities.

This information is provided solely to clients of FFS and no further distribution or disclosure is permitted without the prior written consent of FFS. No person other than FFS clients can rely on any statement herein. The FFS Business Continuity Plan is reviewed and updated regularly and is subject to change.

Please visit the web site at wwwFOUNDERSFINANCIAL.COM for the most current copy of this disclosure. Clients can request an updated copy by contacting FFS at 888-523-1162, or writing FFS at the following address:

Founders Financial Securities, LLC
ATTN: Compliance Department
1026 Cromwell Bridge Road Suite 100
Towson, Maryland 21286