

Form ADV Part 2A

Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC

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FORM ADV PART 2A FIRM BROCHURE

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("Adviser," "Firm," "we," or "SPIS"). If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at 800-452-1929. 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.

Adviser is a registered investment Adviser with the SEC. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. The oral and written communications of an Adviser provide you with information about which you determine to hire or retain an Adviser.

Additional information about Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC (CRD No. 1254) is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>. This Firm Brochure is also available at no cost by contacting your Wealth Manager or by visiting the Regulatory Information & Disclosure section of our website www.stewardpartners.com

# Item 2 - Material Changes

The date of our previous annual update to our brochure was May 19, 2023:

Since that date we have revised our disclosure materials to reflect the following changes. We recommend you closely review each revised section.

# • Item 1: Cover Page

o This Firm Brochure is also available at no cost by contacting your Wealth Manager or by visiting the Regulatory Information & Disclosure section of our website www.stewardpartners.com.

# • Item 4: Services, Fees, and Compensation

- Lockwood changed their name to BNY Mellon Advisors (an affiliate of Pershing and Registered Investment Adviser)
  - Program Name Updates:
    - Lockwood Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios is now called BNY Mellon Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios
  - Product Name Updates:
    - Lockwood Advisors Asset Allocation Portfolios is now called BNY Mellon Advisors Asset Allocation Portfolios
    - Lockwood Advisors WealthStart & American Funds is now called BNY Mellon Advisors WealthStart & American Funds
- Added new Advisory Programs
  - Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program
  - Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts
    - Added new Products and descriptions:
      - Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts
- o Added Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM").
- o Added additional information concerning 408(b)(2) disclosure.
- o Removed Monaco Capital management, LLC ("MCM") as of March 25, 2024.
- o Added information concerning the materiality of SPIS's brokerage and advisory relationships and conflicts arising thereof.

### • Item 4: Important Disclosures

- o Even though the firm offers both brokerage and advisory services, some of our IARs are only registered to offer only advisory relationships.
- We updated information under Item 4 concerning the Firm's planned restructuring. Effective July 1, 2024, investment advisory services under this brochure will be provided by Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC, an affiliated entity. For more information, please refer to Item 4. Advisory Business.

# • Item 5 - Fees and Compensation

- o Added new Advisory Programs—Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program
- o Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts
- o Removed references to FCC due to termination of programs involving FCC as of March 28, 2024.
- o Added details concerning margin loan fees.
- o Added details concerning the firm's cash sweep program.

## Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

Added a detailed discussion of risks specific to investment type.

## Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

o Added affiliates Freedom Street Partners, LLC ("FSP") and Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM").

# Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

Added additional detail concerning personal and aggregated trading.

# Item 12: Brokerage Practices

Removed references to FCC programs.

Added custodi	<b>ient Referrals a</b> Strategic Partn al firms.	ıer Program ar	nd information	concerning	compensation	from clearing

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# Item 4 - Advisory Business

# Firm History

Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("Adviser,", "Firm", "we," or "SPIS"), a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, is a registered investment adviser primarily based in Portland, OR. We became registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on September 28, 2006, as a registered investment adviser and are principally owned by Steward Partners Management Holdings, LLC ("SPMH"). Our affiliates, Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA"), Monaco Capital management, LLC ("MCM"), and Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Affiliated Advisers") are separate SEC-registered investment advisers. SPIS, its Affiliated Advisers and Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC ("SPGA"), also a wholly owned subsidiary of SPMH, are affiliates and separately operated. SPGA provides corporate and related services to SPIS and its Affiliated Advisers. Registration of an investment adviser with the SEC does not imply any level of skill or training.

# **Investment Advisory Services**

The Firm is both a registered investment adviser and a registered broker-dealer. In our combined role as a broker/dealer and a registered investment adviser, we may provide comprehensive financial planning advice to our clients as well as standard broker-dealer services for traditional brokerage accounts. This advice can include cash management, risk management (insurance planning/sales), investment planning (including investment advice, supervisory services and/or portfolio checkups), retirement planning (for employees and employers), and/or estate planning strategies.

Steward Partner's registration as a broker-dealer is material to our advisory business because advisory accounts are custodied with Pershing, a third-party custodian, where we act in our capacity as an introducing broker-dealer. This results in additional forms of compensation to Steward Partners which are discussed in this brochure. See Item 12 – Brokerage Practices – Pershing Clearing Relationship.

Some investment advisor representatives are licensed as insurance agents for an affiliate of SPIS. The conflicts of interest associated with the above arrangements and how these conflicts are addressed are described in Section 5. Please also see Item 15 of the ADV Part 2A Firm Brochure– Custody, regarding our custody and clearing firm Pershing, LLC ("Pershing"). SPIS has no banking division.

SPIS provides investment management services to individuals and businesses including investment advice, portfolio checkups, retirement planning (for individuals, employees, and employers), and/or estate planning strategies. We help clients coordinate and prioritize their financial lives with all aspects of their life goals. Client input and involvement are critical parts of the planning process and implementation of investment decisions. After Client assets are invested in an advisory account, on an ongoing basis the IAR will monitor the investments and provide advice related to financial and investment needs.

SPIS has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the Client's best interest. We offer discretionary and non- discretionary portfolio management services generally exercised within the auspices of the managed account program. Regardless of the program(s) selected, when you engage for portfolio management services, we will consult with you to discuss your financial circumstances and objectives and to assist you in determining (a) an appropriate set of financial goals,

(b) a time horizon for your investments, and (c) your level of risk tolerance. Based on our evaluation of your financial situation, we will provide you with recommendations as to which investment program is the most appropriate for management of your assets and as to which particular investments, asset allocation models, and/or underlying third-party managed investment program(s) is suited for your investment profile. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our Clients' needs and investment objectives.

As part of its investment advisory services, SPIS will review Client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine whether changes are necessary based upon a change in the Client's investment objective,

risk tolerance or other factors. Based upon this, there will be extended periods of time when we determine that changes to a Client's portfolio or the investment program are not necessary, nor prudent. Clients remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 during periods of account inactivity. As indicated below, there can be no assurance that investment recommendations and decisions made by SPIS will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

We offer advice on a broad range of securities including, but no limited to, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, exchange-listed equity securities, alternative investments, municipal securities, corporate bonds, U.S. government securities and money market funds. We do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each Client has different needs and a different tolerance for risk. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities or types of securities.

Client funds are managed with either discretionary or non-discretionary authority. For non-discretionary clients in Client Direct Programs, we must first obtain your approval prior to executing any transactions in your Account(s). For discretionary clients in both Investment Adviser Representative ("IAR") Directed Programs and Third Party Manager Directed Programs, investment recommendations are executed on their behalf without prior approval of each specific transaction.

# Investment Advisory Programs ("Programs") and Products

Custodian - Pershing, LLC ("Pershing")

- •Steward Partners Managed Account Solutions
  - Steward Partners Separate Account Solutions Equity /Balanced
  - o Steward Partners Separate Account Solutions Fixed Income
  - o Steward Partners Separate Account Solutions Model Equity /Balanced
  - o Steward Partners Separate Account Solutions Model Fixed Income
  - o BNY Mellon Advisors<sup>2</sup> Asset Allocation Portfolios
  - o BNY Mellon Advisors<sup>2</sup> WealthStart & American Funds
  - Steward Partners Strategy Solutions
- BNY Mellon Advisors<sup>2</sup> AdvisorFlex Portfolios
- •Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts
  - Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts
- Steward Partners Personalized Portfolios (previously known as "Steward Partners Advisory Program")
  - Steward Partners Discretionary Portfolios (previously known as "Steward Partners Advisory Program – Discretionary")
  - o Steward Partners Guided Portfolios (previously known as "Steward Partners Advisory Program Non- discretionary")

The following Programs which have been discontinued effective March 28, 2024:

# Custodian - Folio Investments, Inc., A Goldman Sachs Company ("Folio")

- Steward Partners Personalized Portfolios (previously known as "Steward Partners Advisory Program")
- Steward Partners UMA Program (Only on Folio)

# <u>Custodian - Wells Fargo Clearing Services ("FCC")</u>

- Custom Choice Program
- Asset Advisor Program
- Private Investment Management (PIM) Program

# Recommending Third-Party Money Managers ("Managers")

We may recommend Managers for the management of your accounts. Managers selection is guided by your stated objectives (i.e., capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth and income), as well as tax considerations. Investments are made in conventional categories including stocks, bonds, and cash. You may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. In managing your investment portfolio, we consider your financial situation, risk tolerance, investment horizon, liquidity needs, tax considerations, investment objectives, and any

other issues important to your financial affairs. You should notify us promptly if there are any changes in your financial situation, investment objectives, or restrictions upon the management of your account.

The Managers recommended by us are chosen for their approach in building portfolios that are designed to mitigate downside risk, offer consistency over time, and offer values-based options as well when applicable. Assets may be managed through a model portfolio that is applied universally to all accounts invested in the model (the "Investment Strategies"). The Manager will oversee the Investment Strategies on a discretionary basis, which means they will purchase and sell securities for your account(s) without first consulting with or obtaining specific authorization from you or your IAR. The Manager manages the Investment Strategies in accordance with its stated investment objectives, not according to the client's investment goals. The Manager will monitor the Investment Strategies on an ongoing basis. Managers may have minimum account balance requirements to invest in the Investment Strategies.

When working with a Manager, we will be responsible for determining the suitability of the investment strategies to be provided by the Manager and assisting you in determining which Manager services are appropriate based on your specific investment goals and objectives, now and in the future. We will monitor performance and are available to discuss the selected Manager's strategy and/or performance. Clients recommended for these programs will receive complete program descriptions, including services, fees, payment structures, and termination features, all of which are found in the respective disclosure brochures, investment advisory agreements, and account opening documents, as well as related solicitor disclosure notices.

# **Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program**

We utilize an unaffiliated third-party platform that can allow an IAR of the Firm to facilitate the management of held-away assets for certain employer-sponsored retirement plan assets on a discretionary basis. Through this platform, the Firm does not take custody of your funds and does not have direct access to your account(s). A link will be provided to the Client, allowing them to connect account(s) to the platform. Once your account(s) is connected to the third-party platform, your IAR will review the current account(s) allocations and, when necessary, will make any changes in the current holdings and/or future allocations based on their understanding of your goals, objectives, risk tolerance, and any other circumstances necessary to make investment changes within the account. Account allocations are limited based on the options made available by the employer-sponsored plan and such limitations may impact the IARs ability to effectively manage the assets. Please be mindful that should your employer-sponsored plan make a "brokerage window" available, your IAR will not be able to manage securities through this feature.

#### **Pension Consulting Services**

We offer pension consulting services to employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries based upon the needs of the plan and the services requested by the plan sponsor or named fiduciary. In general, these services include an existing plan review and analysis, plan-level advice regarding fund selection and investment options, education services to plan participants, investment performance monitoring, and/or ongoing consulting. These pension consulting services will generally be non-discretionary and advisory in nature. The ultimate decision to act on behalf of the plan shall remain with the plan sponsor or other named fiduciary.

• We also offer assistance with participant enrollment meetings and provide investment-related educational seminars to plan participants on such topics as: diversification, asset allocation, risk tolerance, and time horizon.

Our educational seminars include other investment-related topics specific to the particular plan.

We also provide additional types of pension consulting services to plans on an individually negotiated basis. All services, whether discussed above or customized for the plan based upon requirements from the plan fiduciaries (which may include additional plan-level or participant-level services) shall be

detailed in a written agreement and be consistent with the parameters set forth in the plan documents.

We will determine with the Client in advance the scope of services to be performed and the fees for all requested services. Prior to engaging us to provide consulting services, the Client will be required to enter into a written agreement with us setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement, describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the relevant fees and fee-paying arrangements. The services outlined above that we provide are explained in more detail in the written agreement. We will also provide additional disclosures about our services and fees, where required by ERISA. When we perform the agreed upon services, we will rely on the Client to provide accurate and consistent information, and we will not be required to verify the accuracy or consistency of any information provided by the Client. We will serve in a non-discretionary ERISA fiduciary capacity with respect to some but not all of the services that we provide, which will be further explained in the written agreement we sign with the Client. The Client is always free to seek independent advice about the appropriateness of any recommendations made by us.

The agreement we sign with the Client includes the disclosures required of Advisory Representative under Section 408(b)(2) of ERISA, in particular, (i) the services to be provided by Advisory Representative, (ii) the extent to which Advisory Representative is acting as a fiduciary, (iii) the compensation to be received by Advisory Representative, and the manner of receipt of that compensation, and (iv) any fees payable on termination of the agreement. Advisory Representative receives no indirect compensation in respect of the services provided pursuant to the agreement. We retain a portion of the compensation described in the agreement for our services in connection with the agreement, the amount of which varies with our arrangement with each Advisory Representative. Pursuant to the agreement, Advisory Representative neither provides recordkeeping services nor makes available any designated investment alternative for the plan nor advises any investment contract, fund or entity in which the plan has a direct equity investment, and no disclosures under Section 408(b)(2) are thus required to be provided in respect of those matters.

## **IMPORTANT DISCLOSURES**

You may notice differences between the information contained in this brochure and in the individual Program Agreements. Such differences may arise when, for example, changes to the Program Agreement were separately negotiated with you or were required by your IAR when offering the Program to you. Differences may also arise due to changes in our programs or our policies, or because of intervening events. Where there are differences that may exist, now or later, the terms of the Investment Advisory Agreement will control (which may also be amended.) We will notify Clients of any pending changes to their Program Agreement prior to any change implementations.

# <u>Differences between how investment advisory accounts are managed versus other commission-based brokerage accounts.</u>

When you choose to purchase products and services through SPIS you have the option of investing through a transaction- based account, such as a brokerage account, a fee-based investment advisory program, or both. It is important for you to understand the services you will receive, the fees, costs, and expenses you will pay, and SPIS' and your IAR's conflicts of interest in connection with each of these different types of accounts and relationships with SPIS. These services, fees, costs, expenses, and conflicts of interest are described in this document and in further detail, in SPIS's Form CRS, Regulation Best Interest ("Reg BI") Disclosure Document, and this Forms ADV, Part 2A, which are available on SPIS's website under the "Regulatory Information & Disclosures" section.

The Firm's (and the Representatives') legal, contractual, and regulatory obligations differ in important ways, depending on the type of account(s) you have with us (brokerage or investment advisory), and the products or services we provide. Investment advisory accounts and services are governed by laws and regulations which are, in many ways, different from those that govern brokerage accounts and services.

When acting as an investment Adviser, we are a fiduciary for our Client. As a fiduciary, the Firm must, among other duties, act in your best interests, place your interests ahead of our own, and make full and

fair disclosure of all material facts, particularly conflicts of interest.

When acting as a broker-dealer for non-ERISA accounts, we must observe high standards of commercial honor, just and equitable principles of trade, and must have reasonable grounds for believing its recommendations are suitable and in the best interest for you, among other duties. However, our obligation to disclose to brokerage customers information about our business, conflicts of interest, compensation, and other matters is more limited than our corresponding obligations to our advisory Clients.

Clients are encouraged to contact their IAR to discuss any questions about which products or services we provide in each of these capacities, and which are in your best interest as a client. Some factors to consider when deciding between an investment advisory and brokerage relationship may include, but are not limited to;

# Advisory Relationship clients:

- Seek ongoing advice and monitoring on your account.
- Prefer to pay an ongoing advisory fee, based upon assets under management as opposed to a commission on a per- transaction basis,
- Seek a fiduciary relationship with an IAR who must act in your best interest.
- Periodic portfolio rebalancing.

# Brokerage Relationship clients:

- Seek advice only on individual transactions with no ongoing monitoring of your investments.
- Prefer commission-based compensation paid on a per transaction basis.
- Seek a relationship with a financial professional who must make recommendations in your best interest.

Even though the firm offers both brokerage and advisory services, some of our IARs are only registered to offer only advisory relationships.

# **Fiduciary Responsibility for Retirement Accounts**

When we provide investment advice to you regarding your retirement plan account or individual retirement account, we are fiduciaries within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and/or the Internal Revenue Code, as applicable, which are laws governing retirement accounts. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under a special rule that requires us to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours.

Under this special rule's provisions, we must:

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

# Transition to Steward Partners Investment Advisory on or about July 1, 2024

SPIS will transition advisory services for advisory accounts to our affiliated entity, Steward Partners Investment Advisory LLC ("SPIA"), an SEC-registered investment adviser ("SPIA") (collectively, the "Transition") on or about July 1, 2024, (the "Transition Date"). On the Transition Date, unless you communicate your election to opt out of the Transition, your advisory services for your account(s) will be provided by SPIA. Unless otherwise communicated, your financial advisor will continue to service your account(s) at Steward Partners. Your account(s) will be assigned to SPIA on substantially the same terms and conditions as of the Transition Date, as outlined in your SPIS investment advisory agreement. Upon assignment, SPIA will assume the role of your investment adviser, and SPIS will remain the broker/dealer.

# **Assets Under Management**

Adviser's Assets (rounded to the nearest thousand) under Management ("AUM") on December 31, 2022:

Discretionary Accounts Non-Discretionary Accounts Total AUM \$870,848,599 \$120,032,113 \$990,880,713

# Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

# **Pershing Programs**

All Programs listed below charge a "Wrap Fee" ("Program Fee") on Eligible Program Assets that include includes the Asset Based Advisory Fee, Platform Fee and if applicable, Third Party Manager Fee(s). The Program Fee is negotiable between you and your IAR. Depending on which Program, Excluded Assets may not be held in a Program Account. For more details, please refer to applicable Wrap Fee Brochure. For transactions in Excluded Assets, you will pay all our usual and customary commissions, transaction fees and other charges. Excluded Assets are not included in the calculation of the Program Fee. Commissions and fees on Excluded Assets and other charges will be assessed against your Account on or about the transaction date or another date when assessed by us. See below for details on fee exclusions, calculations, refunds, and other information.

<u>Program</u>	<u>Product</u>	Maximum Program Fee <sup>1</sup>	Minimum New Account Opening Values	Minimum Quarterly Program Fee
Steward Partners Personalized	Steward Partners Discretionary Portfolios		\$25,000	N/A
Portfolios	Steward Partners Guided Portfolios		\$25,000	N/A
Steward Partners	Separate Account Solutions – Equity / Balanced		\$25,000	N/A
Managed Account	Separate Account Solutions – Fixed Income		\$25,000	N/A
Solutions	Separate Account Solutions - Model Equity / Balanced		\$25,000	N/A
	Separate Account Solutions – Model Fixed Income	2.50%	\$25,000	N/A
	BNY Mellon Advisors Asset Allocation Portfolios		\$50,000	N/A
	BNY Mellon Advisors WealthStart & American Funds		\$10,000	N/A
	Steward Partners Strategy Solutions		\$10,000	N/A
BNY Mellon Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios	BNY Mellon Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios		\$50,000	N/A
Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts	Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts		\$50,000	N/A

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Annualized, calculated on your Account Value.

Client should note that the minimum Program Fee could cause your Program Fee (expressed as a percentage) to be greater than the standard Program Fee stated above, or the Program Fee stated in your Client Agreement. At our discretion, we can choose to waive the minimum fee.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Minimum Quarterly Program Fee (Prior to May 2011) is \$250

# **Fees and Compensation - Additional Information**

The negotiated Program Fee is documented on the applicable Program Agreement / Schedule. Fees are charged in advance, on a quarterly basis, based on the Account Value on the last business day of the prior calendar quarter.

The initial Program Fee is calculated as of the date that the Account is accepted by SPIS into the Program and covers the remainder of the calendar quarter. There is usually a short delay between account inception and initial investment transactions. Subsequent Program Fees will be determined for calendar quarter periods and shall be calculated based on the Account Value on the last business day of the prior calendar quarter.

No fee adjustment will be made to the Program Fee during any fee period for appreciation or depreciation in the value of the assets in your Account during that period. The Account will be charged or refunded a prorated quarterly Program Fee on any net additions or net withdrawals in the Account. Program Fees will be assessed in the month following the net addition or net withdrawal. Fees are based on the value of the assets in your Account on the date stated and other than those fees we will not otherwise be compensated based on a share of capital gains upon or capital appreciation of the funds or any portion of your funds (i.e., performance fee). No adjustment will be made to the fee for cash and/or securities added or withdrawn if the Account terminates prior to our monthly fee adjustment for such activity.

# **Asset Based Advisory Fee**

All Advisory Programs have an Asset Based Advisory Fee which is a percentage of the Client Account's assets under management on an annualized basis. The Asset Based Advisory Fee covers advisory, execution, trading, custodial, and reporting services. This fee can be negotiable between you and your IAR.

# Third-Party Managers ("Manager Fees") in Advisory Programs

In the Steward Partners Managed Account Solutions, BNY Mellon Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios, and Steward Partners UWA Program, Third-Party Managers ("Manager") who are engaged to manage client assets and/or provide investment strategies will charge a Manager Fee in addition to the Asset Based Advisory Fee and Platform Fee (Collectively the "Program Fee"). All fees due and payable will be disclosed in the investment advisory agreement between the Client and our Firm. This fee is typically not negotiable with the Manager.

In Steward Partners Managed Account Solutions and BNY Mellon Advisors AdvisorFlex Portfolios, Managers fees can range from 0–1.75% per annum. Manager fees are calculated and deducted from your account as stated in the Agreement.

For the Steward Partners Unified Managed Accounts Program, Managers can be accessed through the BNY Mellon Advisors Platform at Pershing. For clients who invest with Managers, the fee will range from 0-1.75% per annum. Manager fees are calculated and deducted from your account as stated in the Agreement.

For the Steward Partners UMA Program, Managers can be accessed through the SmartX Platform at Folio. For clients who invest with Managers, the fee will range from 0-1.75% per annum. Manager fees are calculated and deducted from your account as stated in the Agreement.

#### **Platform Fees**

On Pershing and as part of the Program Fee, our Firm assesses a Platform Fee which is based on the Client Account's assets under management on an annualized basis. The Platform Fee, in part, is to offset the program fee that BNY Mellon Advisors charges the Firm as compensation for advisory services (BNY Mellon Advisors' overlay/portfolio management services with respect to the BNY Mellon Advisors Advised Programs) that Pershing charges for certain administrative tasks in connection with operating the Advisory Program. The Platform Fee is also used to defray any costs the Firm has related to the ongoing

operational and administrative maintenance of client accounts and compensates the Firm for the various services it provides in its role as broker-dealer of record and/or program sponsor for such client accounts. Depending on the Program, the Platform Fee is between 0.075% - 0.30% per annum. Depending on which Program you choose, your IAR will receive more compensation if they do not use certain Programs. This fee is not negotiable. Specific Platform Fees for each Program can be found in the Agreement.

# **General Information About Fees for Program Services**

You should be aware that fees charged for the Program could be higher or lower than those otherwise available if you were to select a separate brokerage service and negotiate commissions in the absence of the extra advisory service provided.

Advisory Programs typically assume a normal amount of trading activity and, therefore, under circumstances, prolonged periods of inactivity will result in higher fees than if commissions were paid separately for each transaction. The overall costs associated with your relationship with us (and the compensation we receive) vary depending on several factors, including:

- Your particular investment advice requirements and product preferences
- The value of your Account or household relations with us
- The frequency of trades and other account activity
- The type, scope, and frequency of services provided.

The Program Fee is negotiable based upon these and other subjective factors, as well as our point-in-time views of the prevailing market prices for similar investment services. As a result of negotiated Program Fees, certain Clients have a lower Program Fee for their Accounts than other Clients.

If you liquidate securities prior to initiating or after terminating Program services, you will be subject to customary brokerage charges with respect to that transaction, in addition to any fees for Program Services that are applicable during the period. For eligible securities purchased previously in a brokerage account and subsequently moved into an advisory Account, these securities will be included in the calculation of fees for Program services.

A portion of the Program Fee will be paid to our IARs in connection with the introduction of Accounts as well as for providing Client-related services within the Programs. This compensation could be more or less than a IAR would receive if you paid separately for investment advice, brokerage, and other services. If an IAR wishes to discount the Program Fee below certain levels, they can do so under certain circumstances. IARs generally will earn reduced compensation resulting from the discount. This creates an incentive for IARs to not discount.

In an advisory Account, you pay fees based on the value of assets in your Account. The investment advisory Program agreement outlines the amount of your fee. These fees are generally paid quarterly, in advance. Certain advisory Programs have higher total fees than other advisory Programs based on several factors including, but not limited to, management fees, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Manager and administrative fees. A conflict of interest exists to the extent that we have a financial incentive to recommend a particular advisory Program that results in additional or greater compensation to us.

Unless agreed to otherwise in writing, you authorize us to deduct fees at the rates indicated in the Fee Schedule for your Program quarterly from your Account(s). The Program Fee will be applied in advance.

Margin debit balances do not reduce the Account Value and purchasing eligible securities with proceeds from a margin loan increases your Account Value by the value of those positions. If the margin loan proceeds are reinvested in securities, the Account Value will be affected by any changes in the value of those securities. You will also be charged margin interest on the debit balance in your Account. Margin interest is in addition to the Program Fee. The interest charges, combined with the Program Fee, may exceed the income generated by the assets in your Account and, as a result, the value of your Account may decrease. The Firm and its IARs have a conflict of interest given their financial incentive to recommend that you use margin, since your use of margin will maintain or increase the assets in your

account, upon which the Program Fee is charged, resulting in the Firm and IARs receipt of higher fees.

In determining the Account Value, we will use the closing prices or, if not available, bid prices of the last recorded transactions for listed securities, options, and over-the-counter securities. For mutual funds, we will use the fund's most current net asset value, as computed by the fund company. We will use information provided by quotation services believed to be reliable in determining the Account Value. If any such prices are unavailable or believed to be unreliable, we will determine prices in good faith to reflect our understanding of fair market value.

The Program Fee will be applied to cash alternatives (i.e., money market funds) held inside the Account. Due to trade date or settlement date accounting, the treatment of accrued income, short positions and other factors, the Account Value used in the calculation of fees could differ from that shown on your monthly Account statement and/or performance report. For more details on Program Fee on Cash Balances.

Whenever there are changes to your fee schedule, the schedule charges previously in effect shall continue until the next billing cycle. We can amend your Client Agreement at any time. Any changes we make to your Client Agreement will be effective after 15 days written notice to you. Your continued use of the services indicates your agreement to the modified terms.

# **Market Timing in Mutual Funds**

Market timing is defined as excessive short-term purchase and sale transactions or exchanges with the intention of capturing short-term profits in violation of the terms of the fund's prospectus. We will not support market timing strategies or activities for mutual funds or any extreme trading activity that we deem, in our sole discretion or by direction of the fund company, detrimental to the interest of average mutual fund shareholders, or contrary to the policies or interest of mutual fund companies with whom we maintain relationships. We, in our sole discretion or by direction of the fund company, reserve the right to reject any transactions or to assess a redemption fee for any partial or full liquidation executed in which the Account trading appears to be inconsistent with the fund's prospectus. Furthermore, when asked by a fund company, we will cooperate and aid in its attempt to identify and impede the efforts of anyone engaged in market timing or extreme trading activity. If the fund company notifies us to reject or cancel a trade for any reason, we reserve the right to cancel it without prior notice to you or any other Client. We will not be held accountable for any losses resulting from market timing activities or any action taken under our market timing policies. Finally, the frequency of mutual fund transactions and exchanges is subject to any limits established by the applicable mutual funds and us.

# Margin Loans and Securities-Based Loan Programs

You may be eligible to use margin in your non-retirement Accounts or pledge your non-retirement Account assets as collateral for margin loans ("Margin Loans"). You may also be able to pledge your non-retirement Account assets as collateral for loans obtained through certain unaffiliated loan programs ("Securities-Based Loan Programs"). It is important that you fully understand the costs, risks, and conflicts of interest involved in pledging your Account assets for a Margin Loan or Securities-Based Loan.

## Margin Loans

Margin accounts are offered where you may borrow funds for the purpose of purchasing additional securities. You may also use a margin account to borrow money to pay for fees associated with your account or to withdraw funds. If you decide to open a margin account, please carefully consider that: (i) if you do not have available cash in your account and use margin, you are borrowing money to purchase securities, pay for fees associated with your account, or withdraw funds; and (ii) you are using the investments that you own in the account as collateral.

Certain Advisory Programs may permit margin borrowing and trading. We will not extend margin in an advisory Account unless authorized by you through a separate margin agreement. You are responsible for notifying us if you decide that you no longer want to use margin in your Account. You may also discontinue use of margin in your Account according to the terms of the Client Agreement. We are not responsible for any losses resulting from our failure or delay in implementing such instructions.

Margin Loans Are Subject to Separate Terms and Conditions. If you take out a Margin Loan, the terms and conditions applicable to the Margin Loan are governed by the Margin Disclosure Statement and the Client Agreement. You should carefully review the terms, conditions, and risk disclosures for Margin Loans and understand that such risks are heightened in the event you hold a concentrated position in your pledged Account or if your pledged Account makes up all, or substantially all, of your overall net worth or investable assets. Certain eligibility requirements must be met, and documentation in the form of a separate margin agreement must be completed prior to using margin.

<u>Costs Are in Addition to Advisory Fees.</u> As discussed above, if you use margin to purchase additional securities, your Account Value increases and therefore the amount of fees you pay will increase. You will also be charged margin interest on the debit balance in your Account, which is in addition to the Program Fee. This results in additional compensation to us.

Money borrowed in a margin account is charged an interest rate that is subject to change over time. This interest payment is in addition to other fees associated with your account. Pershing and Steward Partners, in its capacity as a broker/dealer, charge interest on margin loans to clients. Under its agreement with Pershing, Steward Partners sets the interest rate for margin loans in a range from 0.25% to 2.75% above the Pershing base lending rate depending on the amount of the margin advance. Steward Partners has a conflict of interest in recommending to you a margin loan because Steward Partners (in its capacity as a broker-dealer) receives a markup on the interest charged on the loan.

The interest charged on a Margin Loan can be higher than the interest charged on Securities-Based Loans, or lending services provided by third parties.

<u>We Have an Incentive to Recommend the Use of Margin.</u> The increased asset-based fee and interest that you pay on a Margin Loan provides an incentive for your IAR to recommend the use of margin. Your IAR also has an incentive to use margin to purchase additional securities and other assets instead of selling existing securities or other assets. We address these conflicts by disclosing them to you.

Margin Loans May Not Be Suitable for You. Using margin is not suitable for all investors. As described in the next paragraph, the use of margin increases leverage in your Account and therefore increases risk to a portfolio. We generally believe the use of margin is most appropriate when short in duration. Before deciding to use margin, you should consider the intended duration and total cost of the Margin Loan, as well as other options available to you, such as alternative loan options or liquidating your Account assets.

<u>Using Margin Involves Higher Risks.</u> Generally, we believe that the use of margin adds risk to a portfolio that you should not assume unless you are prepared to experience significant losses. Losses in the value of an asset purchased on margin will be magnified because of the use of borrowed money. You can lose more funds than amounts deposited in margin accounts. In addition, you generally will not benefit from using margin unless the performance of your Account exceeds interest expenses on the Margin Loan plus advisory fees incurred. You should also understand that the use of margin can negatively impact our ability to rebalance your Account. You should carefully consider whether the additional risks are appropriate prior to using margin due to the increased potential for significantly greater losses associated with using margin. You assume full responsibility for the use of margin in your Account. Please see the Margin Disclosure Statement and the Client Agreement for more details on the risks of margin use. You should read this documentation carefully.

# **Securities-Based Loan Programs**

You may pledge your Account assets as collateral for Securities-Based Loan Programs with our consent and where you are eligible under the programs. For your Account to be eligible to serve as collateral for a Securities-Based Loan, your Account may not also serve as collateral for a Margin Loan. If you wish to use

your Account as collateral for a Securities-Based Loan, we will automatically discontinue the availability of margin for your Account.

There are risks, costs, and conflicts of interests associated with Securities-Based Loan Programs. You are encouraged to speak with your IAR to the extent you have questions about how your Account may be used in connection with a Securities- Based Loan Program and how such arrangement should be taken into consideration when discussing the management of your Account.

- Securities-Based Loan Programs Are Subject to Separate Terms and Conditions. If you have elected to participate in a Securities-Based Loan Program, the terms and conditions applicable to that Securities-Based Loan Program are governed by the applicable Securities-Based Loan documents and other service agreements and are not included or described further in this brochure. You should review carefully the terms, conditions and any related risk disclosures for the Securities-Based Loan Program and understand that risks are heightened in the event you hold a concentrated position in your pledged Account or if your pledged Account makes up all, or substantially all, of your overall net worth or investable assets. Certain eligibility requirements must be met, and documentation must be completed prior to obtaining Securities-Based Loans.
- <u>Interest Rates for Securities-Based Loan Programs Differ.</u> In certain circumstances, more than one Securities-Based Loan Program product may be available to you. The interest rate charged for the Securities-Based Loan may be higher than interest rates available through other loan programs from unaffiliated financial institutions. The Securities-Based Loan through our custodial relationships are generally more profitable for us than other loan programs from other financial institutions and gives us an incentive to recommend these Securities-Based Loan Programs.
- Costs Are in Addition to Advisory Fees. The costs, including interest, associated with a Securities-Based Loan Program are not included in the Program Fee and will result in additional compensation to us and our IARs. The interest charges on your Securities-Based Loan Program, combined with the Program Fee, may exceed the income generated by your pledged Account assets and, as a result, the value of your Account may decrease. You are encouraged to carefully consider the total cost of taking out a Securities-Based Loan, and any additional compensation that we and your IAR will receive, when determining to take out and/or maintain a Securities-Based Loan against your Account assets.
- We Have an Incentive to Recommend the Use of Securities-Based Loan Programs. Since our Firm and your IAR are compensated through asset-based advisory fees paid on your Account, we benefit if you draw down on your Securities- Based Loan, which preserves asset-based advisory fee revenue and generates additional loan-related compensation, rather than sell securities or other investments in your Account, which would reduce the assets in your Account and our asset-based advisory fee revenue. This presents a conflict of interest for your IAR when addressing your liquidity needs. In addition, where a Securities-Based Loan is secured by both brokerage and advisory assets, a IAR will benefit if your brokerage assets are liquidated prior to or instead of your advisory assets because the IAR would be able to maintain advisory Account assets subject to the Program Fee. We address these conflicts by disclosing them to you.
- <u>Securities-Based Loan Programs May Not Be Suitable for You.</u> There are other lending products that may be suitable for you and for which we and your IAR would receive different or no compensation. You are responsible for independently evaluating if a Securities-Based Loan is appropriate for your needs, if the lending terms are acceptable, and whether the Securities-Based Loan will have potential adverse tax or other consequences for you.
- There Are Limitations on the Use of Securities-Based Loan Proceeds. Except for margin accounts, where the loan proceeds can be used to purchase, carry, or trade securities, the proceeds of Securities-Based Loan may not be used to
  - (a) purchase, carry, or trade securities or (b) reduce or retire any indebtedness incurred to purchase, carry, or trade securities. If your Account is used as collateral for a Securities-Based Loan, the Account is pledged to support the Securities-Based Loan and you are not permitted to withdraw funds or other assets from your Account unless enough collateral remain to continue supporting the Securities-Based Loan (as determined under the applicable Securities-Based Loan Program). Although you are required to satisfy such collateral requirements, you can terminate your advisory relationship with us, at which time the funds and assets in your Account will be treated as a

brokerage account at our Firm and the collateral requirements for the Securities-Based Loan will continue to apply.

# Additional Considerations Associated with Pledging Advisory Account Assets for Margin Loans and Securities-Based Loans

In addition to the risks mentioned above, if your Account assets are pledged or otherwise used as collateral for Margin Loans or Securities-Based Loans, the exercise of our rights and powers over your Account assets, including the disposition and sale of any and all assets pledged as collateral, may be contrary to your interests and the investment objective of your Account.

- There Are Collateral Maintenance Requirements. When you use margin to purchase securities or draw down on a Securities Based Loan, your Account assets serve as collateral. We can increase our "house" maintenance requirements or call your Margin Loan or Securities Based Loan at any time and for any reason and are not required to provide you with advance written notice. If your Account assets decline in value, so does the value of the collateral. If the required collateral is not maintained, you may need to deposit additional cash or securities as collateral or repay a partial or entire amount of the funds borrowed on short notice. You are not entitled to an extension of time on a margin call. The lender may refuse to fund any advance request due to insufficient collateral. Where the lender assigns different release rates to different asset types, you may be able to satisfy collateral maintenance requirements by selling securities with a low release rate and investing and/or holding the proceeds in assets that have a higher release rate for the loan.
- Liquidation of Securities in a Maintenance Call. Failure to promptly meet requests for additional collateral or repayment, or other circumstances including but not limited to a rapidly declining market, will cause the liquidation of some or all the collateral supporting any Margin Loans or Securities-Based Loans to meet the maintenance requirements. We can sell your Account assets without contacting you. We are not required to notify you of a maintenance call. You will be responsible for any shortfall if your Account assets are insufficient to cover the maintenance deficiency. Even if we have notified you and provided a specific date by which you can meet a maintenance call, we can still take necessary steps to protect our financial interests, including immediately selling your Account assets without notice to you. You should understand that because your Account assets are collateral for the Margin Loans or Securities-Based Loans, in selling such assets, we will seek to protect or advance our interests over your interests. You should expect that our interests will not be aligned with - and will be adverse to - your interests when we sell assets during a maintenance call, and that we may sell assets that you desire to keep or sell them at prices that may be less than the value that we or you believe the assets are worth. You are not entitled to choose which Account assets are liquidated or sold to meet a maintenance call. If there are Account assets that you desire to own during the term of your Margin Loan or Securities-Based Loan, you should not pledge them as collateral. Depending on market circumstances, the prices obtained for your Account assets may be less favorable and may be less than the value that we or you believe the assets are worth. If a margin or maintenance call cannot be fully satisfied from your Account assets, you remain liable for the outstanding debt.
- Impact of Margin and Maintenance Calls on Management of Your Account. In a maintenance call, we might liquidate Account assets that you, your IAR or your third-party Manager otherwise would not sell, and that might not otherwise be in your best interests to sell, and you might not get to choose the assets that are liquidated. We or a third-party Manager will seek to manage your Account as agreed under your advisory Client Agreement and applicable Program Features and Fee Schedule, provided that, if a maintenance call takes place, you should expect that we or your third-party Manager will not be able to manage your Account consistent with our or the third-party Manager's overall strategy. In addition, to preserve sufficient collateral value to support the loan and avoid a maintenance call, depending on your leverage, a IAR may be inclined to invest your account in more conservative investments, which may result in lower investment performance than more aggressive investments (depending on market conditions). We mitigate this risk by requiring and monitoring to ensure that your Account is managed consistent with your respective investment strategies.
- <u>No Legal or Tax Advice.</u> Our Firm and your IAR do not provide legal or tax advice. You should consult with your own Legal counsel and independent tax advisor before using securities as collateral for loans in order to fully understand the tax implications associated with pledging your Account as loan

collateral and the potential liquidation of pledged assets.

#### **Other Account Fees**

The fees for Program services do not include certain dealer markups or markdowns, odd lot differentials, transfer taxes, exchange fees, execution fees (foreign and/or domestic) when applicable, ADR custodial pass through fees, foreign financial transaction taxes when applicable, and any other fees required by law. Cash balances in an Account may be invested in money market mutual funds including, as permitted by law, those with which we have agreements to provide advisory, administrative, distribution, and other services and for which we receive compensation for the services rendered. You should understand that, depending on interest rates and other market factors, the yield that you earn on cash and cash alternatives, including cash sweep funds, CDs and money market funds in an Account, have been, and may continue in the future to be, lower than the aggregate fees and expenses you pay with respect to cash held in an Account (including the Program Fee and Platform Fee and any fee and expenses you bear as an investor in a cash sweep vehicle. As a result, you may experience a negative overall investment return with respect to cash held in an Account. Furthermore, in some instances, the effective yield of a cash sweep may be negative.

If you invest in foreign stocks or American depository receipts ("ADRs"), you will be subject to foreign tax withholding on the dividends paid or interest earned. An ADR represents underlying shares of a foreign corporation which are held and issued by a bank. While ADRs are traded on U.S. markets, the income and tax withholding are subject to the rules and regulation of the foreign tax authorities with jurisdiction over the underlying corporation. When dividends or interest is paid to investors on such foreign securities, the tax authorities for that country requires the payor to withhold taxes for certain foreign investors. This can negatively impact the rate of return on your investment. U.S. clients could be eligible to reclaim a portion of foreign taxes that are withheld and/or receive a preferential foreign tax rate on foreign securities by filing specific tax forms seeking such relief. We do not provide tax advice. Please consult your tax advisor for specific information on foreign tax withholding, your eligibility to reclaim a portion of taxes withheld and/or receiving a preferential foreign tax rate and the costs associated with these filings.

Any non-brokerage fees that are not included in the fees for Program Services will be charged to your Account separately.

Your IAR may suggest that you use other products and services that we offer, but that are not available through the Program you select ("Excluded Assets" or "Non-Program Assets"). Excluded Assets are not charged a Program Fee or a Platform Fee and are not considered a part of the Program or Program services. We generally recommend that you hold these Excluded Assets in a separate brokerage Account. If an Excluded Asset purchased for or transferred into your Account later becomes a Program Eligible Asset, the Program Fee and Platform Fee will apply to that Asset without prior notice to you. You will incur any usual and customary brokerage charges and fees imposed on transactions in Excluded Assets which could include (I) any dealer markups and odd lot differentials, transfer taxes, and other fees; (ii) margin interest and operational fees and charges; (iii) any redemption fees, exchange fees and/or similar fees (among which SEC fees are included) imposed in connection with mutual fund transactions whereby we or your IAR receive additional compensation on these Excluded Assets. Where these fees apply, the more transactions you enter, the more compensation that we and your IAR receive. This compensation creates 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, than investment products that carry lower fees or no fees at all.

## **Account Termination**

You or we may terminate an Advisory Program Account by notifying the other party in writing of the Advisory Program Account to be terminated and termination will become effective upon the receipt of the notice. If an Advisory Program Account is terminated, we will make a pro-rata refund to you of fees paid to us pursuant to the Agreement for the period after the date of effectiveness of such termination through the end of the then current fee period.

If you choose to terminate your Agreement with any of our investment advisory Programs, we can liquidate your Account if you instruct us to do so. If so, instructed we will liquidate your Account in an orderly and efficient manner. We do not charge for such redemption; however, you should be aware that certain mutual funds impose redemption fees as stated in their fund prospectus. For taxable Accounts, you should also keep in mind that the decision to liquidate security issues or mutual funds will result in tax consequences that should be discussed with your tax advisor.

We will not be responsible for market fluctuations in your Account from the time of written notice until complete liquidation. All efforts will be made to process the termination in an efficient and timely manner. Factors that affect the orderly and efficient liquidation of an Account might be size and types of issues, liquidity of the markets, and market makers' abilities. Should the necessary securities' markets be unavailable, and trading suspended, efforts to trade will be done as soon as possible following their reopening. Due to the administrative processing time needed to terminate an advisory Account, termination orders cannot be considered market orders. It could take several business days under normal market conditions to process your request.

Upon termination of the Account or transfer of the Advisory Share Class into a retail brokerage account, you authorize us to convert, at our discretion, the Advisory Share Class to the mutual fund's primary share class, typically A shares, without incurring a commission or load without your prior consent. You understand that the primary share class generally has higher operating expenses than the Advisory Share Class, which will negatively affect your performance. Certain mutual fund shares are required to be redeemed as part of the Account termination, as stated in their prospectus. If a Program Account is terminated, but you maintain a brokerage Account with us, the money market fund used in a "sweep" arrangement could be changed and/or your shares exchanged for shares of another series of the same fund. You will bear a proportionate share of the money market fund's fees and expenses. You are subject to the customary brokerage charges for any securities positions sold in your Account after the termination of Program services.

# **Program Fee on Cash Balances**

Your IAR may maintain cash and cash equivalent positions (such as cash sweep, money market funds or CDs) for defensive and liquidity purposes or for dollar cost averaging. Program Fees are assessed on the cash balance in your Account.

You should understand that the portion of the account held in cash will experience negative performance if the applicable Program Fee charged is higher than the return received on the cash sweep balance.

You should periodically re-evaluate whether their maintenance of a cash balance is appropriate considering your financial situation and investment goals and should understand that this cash may be held outside of your advisory account and not subject to Program Fees.

### Fee Payments through the Custodian

At the inception of the relationship and each quarter thereafter, we will notify your Custodian of the amount of the fee due and payable to us through our fee schedule and contract. They will "deduct" the fees from your Account(s) you have designated to pay our advisory fees. If there is activity, each month, you will receive a statement directly from your Custodian showing all transactions, positions, and credits/debits into or from your account; the statements after the quarter end will reflect these transactions, including the Program Fee paid by you to us. At a minimum, you will receive statements quarterly. You should carefully review your statements for accuracy and notify us immediately with any questions or concerns.

# **Financial Planning and Financial Consulting Services Fees**

Financial planning and consulting fees are negotiable or may be offered as a courtesy through your IAR. Fees may be charged for these services and will be dependent upon the anticipated time to provide the services and complexity of the plan and/or your financial situation. The fees are determined in advance

and disclosed to you at the time the Investment Consulting Agreement is executed. It is possible that you would pay more or less for similar services which are available through another firm.

The manner in which you pay financial planning and consulting fees are payable as follows:

- 1. Hourly rates for plan development or consultation will vary depending on the amount of time it takes to complete services rendered.
- 2. Fixed fees for plans or consulting services will vary depending on a number of factors which include, but are not limited to, the complexity and comprehensiveness of the plan or consulting services rendered.
- 3. Fees as a percentage of assets are generally assessed on the aggregate value for which services are rendered. Services rendered and fees charged are disclosed in each Investment Advisory Consulting Agreement.

You can terminate the advisory relationship without penalty within five (5) business days of entering into the advisory agreement.

It is important to note that we may provide investment product or securities recommendations as part of financial planning services or hourly consulting services. This may present a conflict to the extent that your IAR receives compensation from implementation of such recommendations. Also, compensation to your IAR and our Firm may vary depending on the product or service your IAR recommends. Please note that you have no obligation to execute the recommendations provided to you in a financial plan or you may execute those recommendations through another broker/dealer or RIA firm.

In providing financial planning services, we may recommend our services and/or our Associated Persons services in their separate capacity as licensed insurance agents and/or registered representatives of Steward Partners Investment Solutions. A conflict of interest exists when we make such recommendations. You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the recommendations through your IAR or our firm. If you decide to implement the financial plan or consulting advice through one of the programs or services we offer, your IAR will provide you at the time of engagement with a Client agreement that will contain specific information about fees and compensation that your IAR and our Firm will receive in connection with that program.

You should also understand that your IAR may perform advisory services for various other clients and may give advice or take actions for those other clients that differ from the advice given to you. Also, the timing or nature of any action taken for your account may be different. You should note that similar advisory services may be available from other registered investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

In the event we agree to billing in advance, we do not require you to pay fees in excess of \$1,200 six months or more in advance. Should the engagement last longer than six months between acceptance of financial planning agreement and delivery of the financial plan, any prepaid unearned fees will be promptly returned to you less a pro rata charge for bona fide financial planning services rendered to date. At our discretion, we can offset our financial planning fees to the extent you implement the financial plan through our Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services.

Our financial planning fees are negotiable and generally payable in advance of services rendered. You can terminate the financial planning agreement by providing written notice to our firm. If you have prepaid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

Either party can terminate the advisory agreement. You may terminate the advisory agreement upon 30 days written notice to our firm. If you were charged fees in arrears, you will be responsible for a prorated fee based on services performed. If fees are paid in advance, you may be entitled to a refund of unearned fees.

# Additional Expenses Not Included in the Program Fee (or "Annual Fee")

We do not custody client assets as a qualified custodian; therefore, you will have to custody your accounts with a qualified Custodian. The advisory fees payable to us do not include all the fees you may pay for maintaining your account(s) with a Custodian. The following list of fees or expenses are what you may pay directly to Custodians or brokers, whether a security is being purchased, sold or held in your

account(s) under our management. Fees charged by Custodian can include, but not limited to, items such as:

- Brokerage commissions (FCC Only)
- Transaction fees
- Exchange fees
- Regulatory fees
- Advisory fees and administrative fees charged by exchange traded funds (ETFs)
- Custodial fees
- Wire-transfer and electronic fund processing fees
- SMA/Third Party Money Manager fee
- Other miscellaneous fees disclosed in the custody agreement.

# **Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program**

You will be charged an Advisory Fee as specified in your program agreement. A portion of the Advisory Fee is paid to the third party in exchange for access to their system. Fees are assessed quarterly, in advance and determined based on the total account value on the last business day of the prior quarter. However, for the initial period, the Advisory fee 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 market value of assets in the account on or about that date. No Fee adjustment will be made during any quarter for appreciation or depreciation in asset value during that current period, nor shall any adjustment or refund be made with respect to partial additions or withdrawals during that current period.

Fees cannot be debited directly from the employer-sponsored plan. You are required to maintain a non-qualified brokerage account with the Firm from where the Advisory fee will be debited. In the event of an account closure or termination of the agreement, Advisory fees will not be rebated based on the remaining days in the period,

# Other Fees and Expenses

Mutual funds exchanged traded funds, and annuities all charge internal management fees and other expenses, which are disclosed in a fund's or annuity's prospectus or equivalent disclosure document and are directly deducted from the value of such investment vehicles. IARs may utilizes mutual funds and other managed products in clients' portfolios. The fees and expenses charged by the product providers are separate and distinct from the advisory Fee charged by the IAR.

These fees and expenses are described in each mutual funds' prospectus. These fees will include a management fee, other fund expenses and a possible distribution fee. No-load or load mutual funds may be used in client portfolios which will determine if there is an initial or deferred sales charge which a client will pay. We do not retain 12b-1 fees or other sales charges and commissions on the accounts of advisory clients. When acting as a broker-dealer, ongoing compensation from Third Party Product Sponsors may 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.

Fees for the programs described in this brochure are negotiable based upon many factors including the type and size of the account and the range of services provided by Adviser. In special circumstances, and with client consent, the fee charged to the client account may be more than the maximum fee indicated in this brochure.

#### **Insurance Products**

Some IAR's and other employees of our Firm and our affiliates, are also licensed to sell insurance through a licensed insurance agency. Insurance-related business is transacted with advisory clients, and these individuals can receive commissions from products sold to you. You are advised that the fees paid to the Firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the commissions earned by any individual for selling clients insurance products.

The receipt of commissions by an affiliated entity or individuals associated with the firm presents a conflict of interest. As fiduciaries we must place our clients' interests ahead of ours. Further, we must determine in good faith that any commissions paid to our representatives are appropriate. You are under no obligation to use any individual associated with us for insurance products or services. You may use any insurance firm or agent you choose.

# **Cash Sweep Program**

SPIS receives various revenue streams, including, but not limited to substantial revenue sharing payments from Pershing based upon clients' cash sweep balances. The Firm's receipt of these and other revenue streams through its custodial relationship supports and defrays the costs the Firm has related to the ongoing operational and administrative maintenance of client accounts and compensates us for the various services it provides in its role as broker-dealer of record and/or program sponsor for such client accounts. Cash Sweep program(s) should not be viewed as a long-term investment option and are solely used to hold uninvested cash balances.

This compensation structure creates a conflict of interest because cash sweep elections will impact both what you receive in interest and what the firm receives in compensation. The Standard Bank Deposit Sweep. Standard Bank Deposit Sweep will be more profitable to us than the Expanded Bank Deposit Sweep, which means we will receive a greater benefit if you select the Standard Bank Deposit Sweep as your Cash Sweep. In addition to disclosing it to you, this conflict is mitigated by the controls around billing on cash balances. This conflict is further mitigated because SPIS does not share any portion of this revenue with your IAR.

Unless another option is chosen at account opening, the default cash sweep vehicle is the Dreyfus Insured Deposits Program H ("DIDH"). DIDH is an interest-bearing position that is eligible for Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance coverage. It is important to note that DIDH is not an FDIC-insured product. The product is intended to direct the cash balance in your account to multiple participating program banks in a manner intended to secure pass-through FDIC insurance coverage on your balance from each participating bank.

DIDH offers a higher amount of revenue sharing than other available cash sweep options. The receipt of this revenue sharing presents a conflict of interest because the Firm has a financial incentive to have clients utilize the default cash sweep vehicle. This conflict is mitigated by disclosing it to you. Further, clients should note that although a default cash sweep vehicle is selected, clients have the ability to seek higher yields in other available cash sweep vehicles or money market mutual funds.

If you are seeking the highest yield currently available in the market for your cash balances please contact your IAR to discuss investment options available outside of the available sweep features that may be more suitable for your investment goals.

## Other Compensation Considerations:

## **Investment Adviser Representative Loans**

Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC and its affiliates other than Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC (collectively, "Steward Partners"), in order to facilitate the recruitment of IARs and the acquisition of existing registered investment adviser firms ("RIAs") offers recruited IARs and the IARs of acquired RIAs recruitment loans (the "Recruitment Loans"). Any Recruitment Loans would be expected to have a term of up to ten (10) years and would be accompanied by an unrelated bonus agreement which would provide the recipient IAR of the loan with monies over a similar period to repay the loan over time (the "Bonus Agreement"). These Recruitment Loans and the Bonus Agreement payments would constitute an additional economic benefit for our IARs. Any IAR or RIAs that are recruited or acquired, as the case may be, can choose any of the available custodian and clearing platforms that the Firm has established.

The receipt of Recruitment Loans presents a conflict of interest because recruited or acquired IARs are

incentivized to recommend that clients move their assets to, and continue to utilize the services of, the Firm rather than basing such recommendations on the client's particular needs or best interest. The Recruitment Loans incentivize Steward Partners, the Firm and its IARs to recommend that existing clients begin or continue to utilize the services of our Firm.

This also presents a conflict of interest as the Firm's IARs compensation and Bonus Agreement payments are directly related to the amount of revenue generated from advisory fees and will be higher as more client assets transfer to or remain at the Firm. Please see the section titled " "Additional Expenses Not Included in the Program Fee" for additional information on these types of investments. Please note that the Firm's IAR's have a fiduciary duty to act in your best interest.

These conflicts are mitigated by disclosing them to you and by requiring that there be a review of your account at account opening and periodically to determine whether it is suitable and in your best interest in light of your investment objectives, financial circumstances, and other characteristics.

# **Growth Award Program**

The *Growth Award Program* ("Program") is intended to incentivize IARs who grow their business by providing them with additional equity ownership in our parent company, Steward Partners Management Holdings ("SPMH"). The program incentivizes IAR's who have a certain amount of growth in revenue as determined by the Firm in its sole discretion. An additional award, representing a percentage of the amount awarded to the IARs, may be distributed among the IARs or IAR's Support Staff. This additional award is subject to the Firm's sole discretion and requires management approval. The review period is based on Calendar Year production (January through December). Please contact us for further information on the program.

This Program presents a conflict of interest between the IARs and you as a client since, it creates a financial incentive for the IARs to increase their revenue rather than acting in your best interest. However, as a fiduciary, the Firm and its IARs have an obligation to always put your interests first. In assessing whether this standard is met, we must determine whether our recommendations and investment strategies are not only appropriate for you but are in your best interests as well. We periodically evaluate the holdings in your account and the advice provided to you to ensure it aligns with your current investment objectives and risk tolerance. In addition, whenever trading may create a conflict of interest, we have an obligation to obtain your informed consent after providing full and fair disclosure of all material facts. While we cannot mitigate the conflict of interest, we believe the disclosures provided herein are sufficient for you to provide us with your informed consent before we engage in trading activity on your behalf.

Any material conflicts of interest between you and our firm, or our employees are disclosed in this Disclosure Brochure. If at any time, additional material conflicts of interest develop, we will provide you with written notification of the material conflicts of interest or an updated Disclosure Brochure.

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

We do not charge any performance-based fees (fees based on a share of capital gains on or capital appreciation of the assets of a client). Our advisory fee compensation is charged only as disclosed above.

# Item 7 – Types of Clients

We provide portfolio management services to individuals, high net worth individuals, charitable institutions, foundations, endowments, small businesses, limited liability companies, trusts and corporations.

We require a minimum new advisory account opening value of \$25,000. Some advisory programs have a higher minimum. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis.

# Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

We will use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

**Charting Analysis** - involves the gathering and processing of price and volume pattern information for a particular security, sector, broad index, or commodity. This price and volume pattern information is analyzed. The resulting pattern and correlation data are used to detect departures from expected performance and diversification and predict future price movements and trends.

• **Risk:** Our charting analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns, trends, and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and predict the direction of both the overall market and specific securities.

• **Risk:** The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that our analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Fundamental Analysis** - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.

• **Risk:** The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and can have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions.

• **Risk:** The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

**Long-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

• **Risk:** Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost - "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.

**Short-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

Risk: Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial
markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a
disproportionately higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are
many factors that can affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term

interest rate changes, cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of time.

**Short Sales** - Unlike a straightforward investment in stocks where you buy shares with the expectation that their price will increase so you can sell at a profit, in a "short sale" you borrow stocks from your brokerage firm and sell them immediately, hoping to buy them later at a lower price. Thus, a short seller hopes that the price of a stock will go down in the near future. A short seller thus uses declines in the market to his advantage. The short seller makes money when the stock prices fall and loses when prices go up. The SEC has strict regulations in place regarding short selling.

• **Risk:** Short selling is very risky. A short seller will profit if the stock goes down in price, but if the price of the shares increase, the potential losses are unlimited. There is no ceiling on how much a short seller can lose in a trade. The share price may keep going up and the short seller will have to pay whatever the prevailing stock price is to buy back the shares. However, gains have a ceiling level because the stock price cannot fall below zero. A short seller has to undertake to pay the earnings on the borrowed securities as long as the short seller chooses to keep the short position open. If the company declares huge dividends or issues bonus shares, the short seller will have to pay that amount to the lender. Any such occurrence can skew the entire short investment and make it unprofitable. The broker can use the funds in the short seller's margin account to buy back the loaned shares or issue a "call away" to get the short seller to return the borrowed securities. If the broker makes this call when the stock price is much higher than the price at the time of the short sale, then the investor can end up taking huge losses.

**Margin Transactions** - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.

• **Risk:** If the value of the shares drops sufficiently, the investor will be required to either deposit more cash into the account or sell a portion of the stock in order to maintain the margin requirements of the account. This is known as a "margin call." An investor's overall risk includes the amount of money invested plus the amount that was loaned to them.

**Option Writing** - a securities transaction that involves selling an option. An option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. When an investor sells an option, he or she must deliver to the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. For puts, the seller must purchase from the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. The buyer pays the seller a premium (the market price of the option at a particular time) in exchange for writing the option.

• **Risk:** Options are complex investments and can be very risky, especially if the investor does not own the underlying stock. In certain situations, an investor's risk can be unlimited.

Our investment strategies and advice will vary depending upon each Client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial information, liquidity needs and other various suitability factors. Additionally, your restrictions and guidelines affect the composition of your portfolio. It is important that you notify us immediately with respect to any material changes to your financial circumstances, including for example, a change in your current or expected income level, tax circumstances, or employment status.

We will not perform quantitative or qualitative analysis of individual securities. Instead, we will advise you on how to allocate your assets among various classes of securities or third-party money managers. We primarily rely on investment model portfolios and strategies developed by the third-party money managers and their portfolio managers. We may replace/recommend replacing a third-party money manager if there is a significant deviation in characteristics or performance from the stated strategy and/or benchmark.

# **Tax Considerations**

Our strategies and investments can have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the

management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Moreover, custodians and broker-dealers must report the cost basis of equities acquired in Client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the First-In First-Out ("FIFO") accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method. Decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

#### Risk of Loss

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate Clients from losses due to market corrections or declines.

We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance. All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the investor. Investors face the following investment risks:

Interest-rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.

Market Risk: The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic, and social conditions may trigger market events.

Inflation Risk: This type of risk is the chance that future cash from an investment will not be worth as much due to inflation. Inflation is the increase in the price of goods and services, which causes purchasing power to erode.

Currency Risk: Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.

Reinvestment Risk: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may 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 than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter what the economic environment is like.

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

# **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

We recommend various types of securities and we do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with the investment. A description of the types of securities we may recommend to you and some of their inherent risks are provided below.

Money Market Funds: A money market fund is technically a security. The fund managers attempt to keep the share price constant at \$1/share. However, there is no guarantee that the share price will stay at \$1/share. If the share price goes down, you can lose some or all of your principal. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") notes that "While investor losses in money market funds have been rare, they are possible." In return for this risk, you should earn a greater return on your cash than you would expect from a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insured savings account (money market funds are not FDIC insured). Next, money market fund rates are variable. In other words, you do not know how much you will earn on your investment next month. The rate could go up or go down. If it goes up, that may result in a positive outcome. However, if it goes down and you earn less than you expected to earn, you may end up needing more cash. A final risk you are taking with money market funds has to do with inflation. Because money market funds are considered to be safer than other investments like stocks, long-term average returns on money market funds tends to be less than long term average returns on riskier investments. Over long periods of time, inflation can eat away at your returns.

**Certificates of Deposit**: Certificates of deposit ("CD") are generally a safe type of investment since they are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company ("FDIC") up to a certain amount. However, because the returns are generally low, there is risk that inflation outpaces the return of the CD. Certain CDs are traded in the marketplace and not purchased directly from a banking institution. In addition to trading risk, when CDs are purchased at a premium, the premium is not covered by the FDIC.

**Municipal Securities**: Municipal securities, while generally thought of as safe, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the governmental entity that issues the bond; the stability of the revenue stream that is used to pay the interest to the bondholders; when the bond is due to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

**Bonds**: Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return. Stocks: There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, better established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") are but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

**Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds**: Mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETF") are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities, or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. ETFs differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called "open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors. ETFs may

have tracking error risks. For example, the ETF investment adviser may not be able to cause the ETF's performance to match that of its Underlying Index or other benchmark, which may negatively affect the ETF's performance. In addition, for leveraged and inverse ETFs that seek to track the performance of their Underlying Indices or benchmarks on a daily basis, mathematical compounding may prevent the ETF from correlating with performance of its benchmark. In addition, an ETF may not have investment exposure to all of the securities included in its Underlying Index, or its 17 weighting of investment exposure to such securities may vary from that of the Underlying Index. Some ETFs may invest in securities or financial instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but which are expected to yield similar performance.

**Commercial Paper**: Commercial paper ("CP") is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default. There is a less risk in asset based commercial paper (ABCP). The difference between ABCP and CP is that instead of being an unsecured promissory note representing an obligation of the issuing company, ABCP is backed by securities. Therefore, the perceived quality of the ABCP depends on the underlying securities.

Real Estate Investment Trust: A real estate investment trust ("REIT") is a corporate entity which invests in real estate and/or engages in real estate financing. A REIT reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges. REITs are required to declare 90% of their taxable income as dividends, but they actually pay dividends out of funds from operations, so cash flow has to be strong or the REIT must either dip into reserves, borrow to pay dividends, or distribute them in stock (which causes dilution). After 2012, the IRS stopped permitting stock dividends. Most REITs must refinance or erase large balloon debts periodically. The credit markets are no longer frozen, but banks are demanding, and getting, harsher terms to re-extend REIT debt. Some REITs may be forced to make secondary stock offerings to repay debt, which will lead to additional dilution of the stockholders. Fluctuations in the real estate market can affect the REIT's value and dividends

Limited Partnerships: A limited partnership is a financial affiliation that includes at least one general partner and a number of limited partners. The partnership invests in a venture, such as real estate development or oil exploration, for financial gain. The general partner has management authority and unlimited liability. The general partner runs the business and, in the event of bankruptcy, is responsible for all debts not paid or discharged. The limited partners have no management authority and their liability is limited to the amount of their capital commitment. Profits are divided between general and limited partners according to an arrangement formed at the creation of the partnership. The range of risks are dependent on the nature of the partnership and disclosed in the offering documents if privately placed. Publicly traded limited partnership have similar risk attributes to equities. However, like privately placed limited partnerships their tax treatment is under a different tax regime from equities. You should speak to your tax adviser in regard to their tax treatment.

**Private Placements**: A private placement (non-public offering) is an illiquid security sold to qualified investors and are not publicly traded nor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Risk: Private placements generally carry a higher degree of risk due to illiquidity. Most securities that are acquired in a private placement will be restricted securities and must be held for an extended amount of time and therefore cannot be sold easily. The range of risks are dependent on the nature of the partnership and are disclosed in the offering documents.

**Digital Assets**: Digital Assets generally refers to an asset that is issued and/or transferred using distributed ledger or blockchain technology, including, "virtual currencies" (also known as cryptocurrencies), "coins", and "tokens". We may invest client accounts in and/or advise clients on the purchase or sale of digital assets. This advice or investment may be in actual digital coins/tokens/currencies or via investment vehicles such as exchange traded funds (ETFs) or separately managed accounts (SMAs). The investment characteristics of Digital Assets generally differ from those of traditional securities and currencies. Digital Assets are not backed by a central bank or a national, international organization, any hard assets, human capital, or other form of credit and are relatively new

to the market place. Rather, Digital Assets are market-based: a Digital Asset's value is 18 determined by (and fluctuates often, according to) supply and demand factors, its adoption in the traditional commerce channels, and/or the value that various market participants place on it through their mutual agreement or transactions. The lack of history to these types of investments entail certain unknown risks, are very speculative and are not appropriate for all investors.

Price Volatility of Digital Assets Risk: A principal risk in trading Digital Assets is the rapid fluctuation of market price. The value of client portfolios relates in part to the value of the Digital Assets held in the client portfolio, and fluctuations in the price of Digital Assets could adversely affect the value of a client's portfolio. There is no guarantee that a client will be able to achieve a better than average market price for Digital Assets or will purchase Digital Assets at the most favorable price available. The price of Digital Assets achieved by a client may be affected generally by a wide variety of complex factors such as supply and demand; availability and access to Digital Asset service providers (such as payment processors), exchanges, miners or other Digital Asset users and market participants; perceived or actual security vulnerability; and traditional risk factors including inflation levels; fiscal policy; interest rates; and political, natural and economic events.

Digital Asset Service Providers Risk: Service providers that support Digital Assets and the Digital Asset marketplace(s) may not be subject to the same regulatory and professional oversight as traditional securities service providers. Further, there is no assurance that the availability of and access to virtual currency service providers will not be negatively affected by government regulation or supply and demand of Digital Assets. Accordingly, companies or financial institutions that currently support virtual currency may not do so in the future.

Custody of Digital Assets Risk: Under the Advisers Act, SEC registered investment advisers are required to hold securities with "qualified custodians," among other requirements. Certain Digital Assets may be deemed to be securities. Many Digital Assets do not currently fall under the SEC definition of security and therefore many of the companies providing Digital Assets custodial services fall outside of the SEC's definition of "qualified custodian". Accordingly, clients seeking to purchase actual digital coins/tokens/currencies may need to use nonqualified custodians to hold all or a portion of their Digital Assets.

Government Oversight of Digital Assets Risk: Regulatory agencies and/or the constructs responsible for oversight of Digital Assets or a Digital Asset network may not be fully developed and subject to change. Regulators may adopt laws, regulations, policies or rules directly or indirectly affecting Digital Assets their treatment, transacting, custody, and valuation.

# **Asset Allocation:**

Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance.

A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

Risks for all forms of analysis. Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

Adviser may recommend professionally managed investment products like low-cost mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs). As with any investment, past performance is not a guarantee of future results. But costs often do affect investment performance. Adviser attempts to use low-cost products whenever possible, such as index funds and ETFs. Clients should always review and understand an investment's key literature such as a prospectus and annual report.

Adviser constructs portfolios based on different risk and return objectives which are reviewed with each client in order to identify the most appropriate portfolio. Adviser's investment strategy involves analyzing global market conditions to determine how best to allocate portfolios. In addition, Adviser conducts manager research in order to identify the most attractive and suitable securities. We take this approach by working with the client to understand their needs.

Adviser believes in the benefits of diversification through asset allocation. While diversification can help to lower a portfolio's overall volatility (significant price changes), investing always involves a risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Adviser therefore attempts to balance reasonable levels of risk with reasonable levels of return to generate the capital necessary to meet client goals. Individual client risk tolerance and risk capacity are also key factors in the investment planning process.

#### **Asset Allocations Not Static:**

Depending on the asset allocation approach, and according to your investment needs, assets within your portfolio may periodically be rebalanced or reallocated as recommended by the investment strategy selected for your account. When market returns have caused asset allocations to extend beyond predetermined limits, your portfolio may be rebalanced back to an original target mix. As our economic outlook evolves, assets within your portfolio may also be reallocated to capture opportunities or manage risk. Investments can go down in value. You can lose some, much or all your invested money. Do not invest money you cannot afford to lose.

# Item 9 - Disciplinary and Other Information

We are both a broker-dealer and investment advisory Firm. The disciplinary events listed below are related to the activities of the broker-dealer, investment adviser or predecessor firms.

For more information on broker/dealer related disciplinary events, please visit: <a href="http://www.brokercheck.finra.org">http://www.brokercheck.finra.org</a>.

Our investment advisory disciplinary history is available by going to: http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/.

# Item 10 - Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("SPIS"), a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, is a registered investment adviser primarily based in Portland, OR. We are principally owned by Steward Partners Management Holdings, LLC. We became registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") on September 28, 2006, as a registered investment adviser. Registration of an Investment Adviser with the SEC does not imply any level of skill or training.

We are both a registered investment adviser and a registered broker/dealer. Our Firm in its combined role as a Broker/Dealer and a registered investment adviser may provide comprehensive financial planning advice to its clients as well as standard broker/dealer services for traditional brokerage accounts. This advice can include cash management, risk management (insurance planning/sales), investment planning (including investment advice, supervisory services and/or portfolio checkups), retirement planning (for employees and employers), and/or estate planning strategies.

Some investment advisors are licensed as insurance agents for an affiliate of Advisor. The conflicts of interest associated with the above arrangements and how these conflicts are addressed are described in Section 5, above. Please also see Item 15 – Custody, regarding our custody relationship with Pershing, LLC ("Pershing").

Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA") and Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM") (collectively referred to as "Affiliated Advisers") are SEC registered investment advisers and affiliates of Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("SPIS"). SPIS and its Affiliated Advisers are under the same parent company, Steward Partners Holdings, LLC ("SPH"). SPIA and Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC ("SPGA"), also a wholly owned subsidiary of SPH, and its Affiliated Advisers are affiliates and separately operated. SPGA provides corporate and related services to SPIS and its Affiliated Advisers.

# Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

The Firm adheres to the Code of Ethics in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing our practices. Additionally, the Firm adheres to the code of ethics as promulgated by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards. Our Code of Ethics will be provided upon request to any client or prospective client. In brief, Adviser provides professional services with integrity, objectivity and diligence. Our employees maintain the knowledge and skills necessary to provide professional services in a competent manner. Adviser will be fair and reasonable in all professional relationships and disclose any conflicts of interest. Adviser protects the confidentiality of all client information. Our employees act in a manner that demonstrates exemplary professional conduct. Persons associated with our firm are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Ethics for all supervised persons of the firm describing its high standard of business conduct, and fiduciary duty to its clients. The Code of Ethics includes provisions relating to the confidentiality of client information, a prohibition on insider trading, a prohibition of rumor mongering, restrictions on the acceptance of significant gifts and the reporting of certain gifts and business entertainment items, and personal securities trading procedures. All supervised persons at the Firm must acknowledge the terms of the Code of Ethics annually, or as amended.

Our clients or prospective clients may request a copy of the firm's Code of Ethics by emailing us at: info@stewardpartnersis.com.

# **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell the same securities that we recommend to Clients or securities in which Clients are already invested. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of Clients and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy pursuant to our Code of Ethics that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

## **Aggregated Trading**

Our firm or persons associated with our firm may buy or sell securities for you at the same time we or persons associated with our firm buy or sell such securities for our own account. We may also combine our orders to purchase securities with your orders to purchase securities ("aggregated trading"). The aggregating or blocking of client transactions allows an adviser to execute transactions in a more timely, equitable and efficient manner and seeks to reduce overall transaction costs to clients. Refer to the Brokerage Practices section in this brochure for information on our aggregated trading practices. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To eliminate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor persons associated with our firm shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

# **Item 12 - Brokerage Practices**

# **Pershing Clearing Relationship**

Pershing is the clearing firm for Steward Partners Investments Solutions' brokerage business and is a custodial option for its accounts ("Custodian"). Pershing offers their broker-dealer client's substantial financial strength and stability, economies of scale, and reliable, state-of-the-art technology.

For all advisory services programs, our Firm requires that Clients establish brokerage accounts with a designated Custodian. Steward Partners Investments Solutions is also an introducing Broker-Dealer that provides brokerage services for advisory accounts. During the Account opening process, a Client requests our Firm to open a custodial account for the Client with our Custodian.

As part of this business relationship, Steward Partners, in its capacity as broker/dealer, pays Pershing various execution and clearing charges and fees in connection with Pershing maintaining custody and effecting the purchase and sale of securities for our clients. One such fee Pershing imposes is a quarterly charge based on assets. Cash balances and money fund balances are excluded from this fee. Therefore, Steward Partners has a financial incentive to recommend these assets to you to reduce its fees for Pershing's execution and clearing services. The firm mitigates this conflict by avoiding incentives to its IARs for recommending these types of assets, and by maintaining policies and procedures so that recommendations are reasonable based on your investment profile and in your best interest.

Pershing charges Steward Partners for certain account services for accounts custodied with Pershing (including advisory accounts), including clearing and executing transactions, outgoing transfers, wired funds, direct registration of securities, paper statements and confirms, margin extensions, ticket charges, and IRA custodial maintenance and termination. Steward Partners sets its own price for its services, which are designed to cover its costs of doing business (including overhead and other costs) as well as provide for a profit to Steward Partners. Steward Partners charges clients more for certain services than it pays Pershing, which is sometimes called a "markup," and the markups vary by product and the type of service and can be substantial. Steward Partners keeps the difference between the fees and charges our clients pay and the amount paid to Pershing to cover the costs associated with processing transactions and providing other services.

Please refer to the Steward Partners Investment Solution Fee Schedule published in the Regulatory Information & Disclosure section of our website (stewardpartners.com) for a detailed schedule of fees and other brokerage costs as well as for a better understanding of where we receive additional compensation. These forms of compensation are not shared with your IAR and are in addition to advisory fees you pay to us.

Steward Partners is currently subject to a substantial fee of for terminating its relationship with Pershing. This fee reduces over time. This arrangement creates an incentive for Steward Partners for you to continue using Pershing for brokerage services, until the termination fee is no longer substantial to us.

## **Best Execution**

We believe Pershing offers Clients financial strength and stability, economies of scale, and reliable technology. In seeking best execution, we review the quality of Pershing as compared to other industry custodians at least annually. The determinative factor is not the lowest possible cost, but whether the transaction represents the best qualitative execution, taking into consideration the full range of a Financial Institution's services, including among others, the value of research provided, execution capability, commission rates and responsiveness. Each Custodian has differential pricing that may vary in areas such as service fees, processing fees, and banking fees. It is possible that more favorable execution for some transactions could be provided elsewhere. Clients should discuss these differences and Client's preferences with their IAR and may also access additional information on these fees on our fee schedule located on our website at stewardpartners.com.

It is important to note the not all registered investment adviser Firms requires clients to direct brokerage to their affiliate Broker-Dealer.

## Principal / Agency Cross / Cross Transactions

A principal transaction is generally defined as a transaction where an investment adviser, acting as principal for its own account, buys securities from or sells securities to an advisory client. An agency cross transaction is generally defined as a transaction where a person acts as an investment adviser in relation to a transaction in which the investment adviser, or any person controlling, 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. A cross transaction is generally defined as a transaction where an investment adviser effects a transaction between two or more of its advisory clients' accounts. Our Firm does not engage in principal transactions, agency cross transactions, or cross transactions for advisory client accounts.

#### Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits

Soft dollar arrangements have developed as a link between the brokerage industry's supply of research and the money management industry's demand for research. Because commission dollars pay for the entire bundle of services, the practice of allocating certain of these dollars to pay for the research component has come to be called "soft dollars." Adviser does not participate in soft dollar arrangements.

#### Referrals

We do not compensate or otherwise reward non-affiliated brokers for client referrals.

# Item 13 - Review of Accounts

Reviews will be conducted with client's at least annually, or as requested by you. Reviews will focus on portfolio performance compared to your targets and benchmarks. Reviews may be triggered at any point in time in response to a disclosure that you make to us of a significant change in your circumstances (such as paying off a mortgage, retiring, changing employment, etc.). Account reviews are conducted by your IAR or the Firm.

# Reporting from Custodian

You will receive the following from Custodian:

- Trade confirmations reflecting all transactions in securities; provided, however, that periodic statements of account activity may be furnished in lieu of transaction by transaction confirmations to the extent and in the manner permitted by Rule 10b-10 under the Exchange Act; and
- A statement of Account activity, holdings, fees, and expenses at least quarterly.

# **Performance Reports**

Advisory accounts will have written performance (or similar) reports available online, at least quarterly. Each performance report will include a reminder to contact us if there are any changes in your Suitability Information and will also include how to notify us.

# Item 14 - Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We may receive client referrals from non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Promoters). In order to receive a cash referral fee from our firm, Promoters must comply with the requirements of the jurisdictions in which they operate. If you were referred to our firm by a Promoter, you should have received a copy of this brochure along with the Promoter's disclosure statement at the time of the referral. If you become a client, the Promoter that referred you to our firm will receive a percentage of the advisory fee you pay our firm for as long as you are a client with our firm, or until such time as our agreement with the Promoter expires. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral arrangement. Referral fees paid to a Promoter are contingent upon your entering into an advisory agreement with our firm. Therefore, a Promoter has a financial incentive to recommend our firm to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest; however, you are not obligated to retain our firm for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees may be available through other firms.

Promoters that refer business to more than one investment adviser may have a financial incentive to recommend advisers with more favorable compensation arrangements. We request that our Promoters disclose to you whether multiple referral relationships exist and that comparable services may be available from other advisers for lower fees and/or where the Promoter's compensation is less favorable.

#### **Transition Loans**

Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC, an affiliate of SPIS, may provide loans, bonus payments and production awards to certain SPIS IARs. SPIS's IARs may receive the proceeds of a loan based on their respective trailing 12 months' revenue, generally, upon joining SPIA as an IAR. These compensation arrangements and the restrictive terms and conditions of the loans and any bonus payments incentivize SPIS IARs to remain, and retain Client assets, at SPIS

# **Strategic Partners**

In addition to commissions or asset-based fees, the firm, receives compensation ("marketing support") from the below categories:

- Packaged Products: certain mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), variable insurance products, fixed insurance products, direct participation programs, alternative investments, and unit investment trusts (UITs)
- Third-Party Managers: certain third-party money managers offered through accounts custodied away from the Broker-Dealer

The above categories are hereinafter referred to as ("Strategic Partner" or "Strategic Partners"). Strategic Partners are selected, in part, based on the competitiveness of their products, their technology, their customer service and their training capabilities. Strategic Partners have more opportunities than other companies to market and educate our Advisory Representatives on investments and the products they offer. Marketing support payments are typically calculated as a fixed fee. Strategic Partners pay Steward Partners and/or its affiliates, differing amounts of marketing support payments, for which the Strategic Partner receives various benefits. You do not pay more to purchase Strategic Partner investment products through Steward Partners than you would pay to purchase non-partner products or those partner products through another broker- dealer. Additionally, marketing support payments received by our firm and/or its affiliates are not paid to or directed to your Advisory Representative. Nevertheless, a conflict of interest exists, in that your Advisory Representative indirectly benefits from Strategic Partner payments when the money is used to support the costs of product review, marketing or training. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the fact that your Advisory Representative does not receive any additional compensation for selling Strategic Partner products, and that the firm maintains policies and procedures to ensure recommendations are in your best interest.

Our firm will update information regarding Strategic Partners who participate in marketing support arrangements with Steward Partners and/or its affiliates on its website on a regular basis.

For additional information, including specifics on the marketing support amounts, please refer to our Indirect Compensation Disclosure located at <a href="https://www.stewardpartners.com/files/118678/indirect-compensation-disclosure%201-1-2024.pdf">https://www.stewardpartners.com/files/118678/indirect-compensation-disclosure%201-1-2024.pdf</a>.

From time to time, our firm and/or its affiliates also receives marketing support payments from companies that are not Strategic Partners, generally to cover meetings expenses.

# Item 15 – Custody

Client's Investment Advisory Program assets will be held at a designated custodian. Clients have the option to waive receiving trade confirmations that the custodian sends for each purchase and sale transaction. This option is voluntary and not required to establish or maintain a Client Account. Clients electing to waive receipt of trade confirmations will continue to receive monthly account statements providing information on all transactions taking place in the account.

We do not provide custodial services for client assets and all Client Accounts are required to be held with a qualified custodian. Clients will receive account statements from the qualified custodian that holds their accounts, and clients should carefully review these statements. It is important to compare the information on these statements with reports you receive from our Firm or your IAR.

The Firm and its IARs do not take possession of client funds or securities. However, in certain Investment Advisory Programs, clients have authorized the Firm to deduct advisory fees from their accounts. While the Firm and its IARs do not accept authority to take possession of client assets, this level of account access is considered "custody" under Investment Advisers Act Rules. Additionally, we also allow clients to grant authority to their IARs to initiate transfers of funds and securities on the client's behalf, including transfers to third parties, through standing written authorizations or instructions. The SEC has determined that this capability is considered "custody" under Investment Advisers Act rules.

# Item 16 - Investment Discretion

Adviser will receive discretionary trading authority from you at the onset of an advisory relationship to select the identity and amount of securities to be bought or sold. In all cases, however, such discretion is to be exercised in a manner consistent with the stated investment objectives for your account. We are granted a limited power of attorney and are limited by our standard agreement and agreed-upon investment guidelines. The contract allows us to manage substitutions, additions, and deletions to your portfolio. Our authority includes the power to purchase, sell and exchange property, exercise whatever rights are conferred upon the holder of property held in a portfolio, and reinvest any account proceeds. The portfolio guidelines cover restrictions on securities to be bought and sold, portfolio objectives and portfolio asset allocation requirements.

# **Item 17 - Voting Client Securities**

As a matter of firm policy and practice, Adviser does not have any authority to and does not vote proxies on behalf of advisory clients. Clients retain the responsibility for receiving and voting proxies for all securities maintained in client portfolios. Adviser may provide advice to clients regarding the clients' voting of proxies. We do not accept the authority to vote client securities, nor do we permit our IARs to vote proxies on behalf of advisory clients in connection with any of the services described in this Brochure. Clients will receive proxies directly from the account custodian.

# Item 18 – Financial Information

Registered investment advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about Advisor's financial condition. Advisor has no financial commitment that impairs its ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients and has not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.



Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC

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Telephone: 212-364-0364 Facsimile: 978-409-2106

March 28, 2024

FORM ADV PART 2A BROCHURE

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, contact us at 978-809-3720. 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.

Additional information about Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC (CRD No. 283004) is available on the SEC's website at <a href="https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a>.

Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC is a registered investment adviser. Registration with the SEC or any state securities authority does not imply a certain level of skill or training.

# **Item 2: Summary of Material Changes**

Form ADV Part 2 requires registered investment advisers to amend their brochure when information becomes materially inaccurate. If there are any material changes to an adviser's disclosure brochure, the adviser is required to notify you and provide you with a description of the material changes.

Since our last annual amendment, dated March 31, 2023, we have made the following material changes to our Disclosure Brochure.

# • Item 4: Services, Fees, and Compensation

- We now offer the Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program.
- We added Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM"). We removed Monaco Capital management, LLC ("MCM") as of March 25, 2024.
- Added information regarding 408(b)(2) disclosures.
- We added description of Other Asset Management Services provided to former clients of Monaco Capital Management, LLC and Saling Simms Associates Inc.

## • Item 5: Fees and Compensation

- Provided a description of advisory fees for Advised Retirement Plan Accounts
- Provided a description of advisory fees for Other Asset Management Services
- Added details concerning margin loan fees.
- Added details concerning the firm's cash sweep program.

## Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

• Added a detailed discussion of investment type specific risks.

## • Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

Added EWM.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

 Added information concerning Raymond James & Associates (RJA) clearing relationship and removed references to an RJA forgivable loan program that is no longer in effect.

## • Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

• We added details about our Strategic Partner Program and Transition Loans.

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# **Item 4: Advisory Business**

## **Description of Firm**

Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA"), a limited liability company organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, is a registered investment adviser ("RIA") primarily based in New York, New York. SPIA has been providing investment advisory services since March 2016. SPIA is wholly-owned by Steward Partners Management Holdings, LLC ("SPMH"). Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("SPIS") operates as a broker-dealer and RIA registered with the SEC, wholly-owned by SPMH. Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA") and Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM") (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Affiliated Advisers") are separate SEC-registered investment advisers. SPIS, its Affiliated Advisers and Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC ("SPGA"), also a wholly owned subsidiary of SPMH, are affiliates and separately operated. SPGA provides corporate and related services to SPIA, SPIS and its Affiliated Advisers.

Raymond James & Associates, Inc. ("RJA"), acts as a custodian and a clearing agent to Client accounts introduced by SPIA and facilitates various advisory programs through Asset Management Services ("AMS"), an operating division of RJA (collectively "RJA").

SPIA offers insurance and investment products and services directly and through our clearing custodian, Raymond James & Associates, Inc. ("RJA", "Raymond James" or the "Custodian"). SPIA has no banking division and does not offer any proprietary products to Clients.

## **Available Account Types and Relationships**

When you choose to purchase products and services through SPIA, you have the option of investing through a transaction-based account, such as a brokerage account, a fee-based investment advisory program, or both. It is important for you to understand the services you will receive, the fees, costs, and expenses you will pay, and SPIA's and your IAR's conflicts of interest in connection with each of these different types of accounts and relationships with SPIA. These services, fees, costs, expenses, and conflicts of interest are described below and in greater detail in the Form CRS for SPIA and SPIS, respectively. You can find the most recent Form CRS for SPIS broker-dealer at the following location <a href="https://files.brokercheck.finra.org/crs\_1254.pdf">https://files.brokercheck.finra.org/crs\_1254.pdf</a>.

The following paragraphs describe our services and fees. Please refer to the description of each investment advisory service listed below for information on how we tailor our advisory services to your individual needs. As used in this brochure, the words "we," "our," "firm," and "us" refer to Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA") and the words "you," "your," and "Client" refer to you as either a Client or prospective Client of our firm. You will also see the term "Associate" throughout this brochure. This term refers to our officers, directors, employees, financial professionals, and other personnel of our firm. The term "Investment Advisor Representative" or "IAR" refers to the financial professional who provides investment advice on behalf of our firm.

The delivery of the below described services (and their related financial products and services) occurs through our relationship with other parties described as follows:

#### **Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services**

SPIA has a fiduciary duty to provide services consistent with the Client's best interest. We offer discretionary and non-discretionary portfolio management services generally exercised within the auspices of the managed account program. Regardless of the program(s) selected, when you engage for portfolio management services, we will consult with you to discuss your financial circumstances and objectives and to assist you in determining (a) an appropriate set of financial goals, (b) a time horizon for your investments, and (c) your level of risk tolerance. Based on our evaluation of your financial situation, we will provide you with recommendations as to which investment program is the most appropriate for management of your assets and as to which particular investments, asset allocation models, and/or underlying third-party managed investment program(s) is suited for your investment profile. Our investment advice is tailored to meet our clients' needs and investment objectives.

As part of its investment advisory services, SPIA will review Client portfolios on an ongoing basis to determine whether changes are necessary based upon a change in the Client's investment objective, risk tolerance or other factors. Based upon this, there will be extended periods of time when we determine that changes to a Client's portfolio or the investment program are not necessary, nor

prudent. Clients remain subject to the fees described in Item 5 during periods of account inactivity. As indicated below, there can be no assurance that investment recommendations and decisions made by SPIA will be profitable or equal any specific performance level(s).

## **Types of Investments**

We offer advice on a broad range of securities including, but not limited to, equity securities, warrants, corporate debt securities, certificates of deposit, municipal securities, variable life insurance, variable annuities, mutual fund shares, exchange traded funds (ETFs), and options. We do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each Client has different needs and a different tolerance for risk. Additionally, we can also provide advice on other types of investments held in your portfolio at the inception of our advisory relationship.

# **ESG/Socially Responsible Investing**

Certain Clients may desire to invest all, or a portion, of their investment portfolio in socially responsible securities including but not limited to mutual funds and exchange traded funds (the "ESG Funds") (i.e., Funds that have a mandate to avoid, when possible, investments in alcohol, tobacco, firearms, oil drilling, etc.). There are potential limitations associated with allocating a portion of an investment portfolio to ESG Funds. The number of ESG Funds are substantially few when compared to those that do not maintain such a mandate. ESG Funds could underperform broad market indices. Investors must accept these limitations, including the potential for underperformance. The Client is under no obligation to invest any portion of their portfolio in ESG Funds. As with any type of investment (including the investments and/or investment strategies recommended and/or undertaken by SPIA), there can be no assurance that an investment in ESG Funds will be profitable or prove successful.

# Wrap Fee Programs Sponsored by Third-Party Money Managers ("TPMM")

An account that is considered to be a wrap fee program is not charged commissions and/or transaction fees. The advisory fee paid by the Client includes custody, trades, management expertise and reporting in a bundled format. In such instances your IAR receives a portion of the wrap fee.

A Client's total cost for each of the services provided through these programs could be different if purchased separately. Cost considerations include the Client's ability to:

- 1. Obtain the services provided within the programs separately from any of the mutual fund sponsors,
- 2. Invest and rebalance the selected mutual funds without the payment of a transaction charge, and
- Obtain performance reporting comparable to those provided within each program.

When comparing costs, the combination of multiple mutual fund investments, advisory services, custodial and brokerage services available through each program may not be available separately. As such, Clients are subject to have multiple accounts, sign numerous documents, and incur various fees. If an account is not actively traded or the Client qualifies for reduced sales charges, the fees in these programs can be more expensive than if utilized separately.

Our IARs have a financial incentive to recommend a fee-based advisory program rather than having you pay separately for investment advisory services, brokerage, performance reporting and other services. A portion of the annual fee charged in fee-based programs is paid to our IARs. This can be more than what would be received under an alternative program or if these services were paid for separately. Our IARs have a financial incentive to recommend a particular account program over another. Compensation structures vary by product type, our IARs may receive higher compensation for certain product types.

We believe the charges and fees offered within each fee-based program are competitive and reasonable. However, we make no guarantee that the aggregate cost of a particular program is lower than that which is available elsewhere. If you participate in a wrap fee program, we will provide you with a separate Wrap Fee Program Brochure explaining the program and costs associated with the program.

Within our investment advisory programs, we offer separately managed accounts ("SMA's), multiple discipline accounts, unified managed accounts ("UMA's"), mutual fund and/or exchange-traded funds ("ETF's") asset allocation programs through Asset Management Services ("AMS), an operating division of RJA (each, an "AMS Managed Program") and a dual contract managed account platform, also through AMS, in which you enter into a separate contract with an outside manager. RJA also sponsors a

program where your Investment Advisor Representative ("IAR"), advises you on your account assets ("FA Advisory Program" or "Ambassador"). While RJA is the wrap fee program sponsor of the FA Advisory Program, the IAR and its associated registered investment adviser is providing you advisory services. Each of the AMS Managed Programs is a discretionary program, whereas the FA Advisory Program can be discretionary or non-discretionary. In a discretionary account, you delegate to your IAR the authority to decide what securities to buy or sell for your account. In a non-discretionary account, your IAR will provide you with advice in the form of recommendations but the decision to buy or sell securities is made by you. Your delegation of investment discretion to RJA will generally result in securities and other investment prospectuses (and other associated regulatory mailings) being available to RJA as the program's Manager for investment purposes. We will make these documents available to you upon request.

Once selected, the TPMM(s) will invest the Client's assets, typically on a discretionary basis, in accordance with their stated investment discipline(s) and strategy(ies) and without soliciting the Client's consent prior to engaging in portfolio transactions. You will have the ability to impose reasonable restrictions on the investments made in your account, contribute or withdraw securities and/or cash from your account, and/or to request the sale of individual securities for tax planning purposes (also called "tax harvesting") within your account. Our role is to consult with you and select and adjust (or assist you in selecting and adjusting) the particular TPMM(s) to be engaged for management of the assets within your account. In summary, these accounts are intended to provide our Clients with flexibility in developing a customized portfolio diversified across multiple investment disciplines or one which is targeted to an individual or more concentrated investment discipline through the use of a diverse set of available TPMMs. Please see the respective RJA Wrap Fee Brochure for additional details concerning these programs.

## **Other Asset Management Services**

SPIA also offers asset management services to former clients of Monaco Capital Management, LLC and Saling Simms Associates Inc. These specific services, as described in more detail below, are not offered to new clients of SPIA.

## Monaco Capital Management, LLC

Clients of these services are provided with continuous advice regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy and create and manage a portfolio in accordance with that policy. Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the client (i.e., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, growth and income, etc.).

A portfolio consists of one or all of the following: individual equities, bonds, no-load mutual funds, load-waived mutual funds, exchange-traded funds or funds whose sales charge is waived, and/or other investment products. We allocate the client's assets among various investments, taking into consideration the overall management style selected by the client. Clients can place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments that will be made on the client's behalf. Clients will retain individual ownership of all securities.

Services may be provided on a discretionary basis, meaning that we possess the discretion to buy and sell individual stocks, funds, bonds, and other investments. Please refer to the terms the advisory agreement for details.

Saling Simms Associates Inc.

This program is a wrap fee investment advisory account administered by SPIA. Your IAR will manage your account on a discretionary or non-discretionary basis according to your objective.

This account offers you the ability to pay an asset based advisory fee which includes transaction costs within the advisory fee in lieu of a commission for each transaction. Please refer to the terms the advisory agreement for details.

## **Financial Planning Services**

We offer financial planning services which typically involve providing a variety of advisory services to Clients regarding the management of their financial resources based upon an analysis of their individual needs. These services can range from broad-based financial planning to consultative or single subject planning. If you retain our firm for financial planning services, we will meet with you to gather information about your financial circumstances and objectives. Your IAR may also use financial planning software to determine your current financial position and to define and quantify your long-term goals and objectives. Once we specify those long-term objectives (both financial and non-financial), we will develop shorter-term, targeted objectives. Once we review and analyze the information you provide to our firm and the data derived from our financial planning software, we will deliver a written plan to you, designed to help you achieve your stated financial goals and objectives.

While reviews and updates to the financial plan are not part of the contracted services, at your request we will review your financial plan to determine if the investment advice provided is consistent with your investment needs and objectives. We will also update the financial plan at your request. At our sole discretion, reviews and updates can be subject to a negotiable flat fee, hourly rate, or percentage of assets. If you implement the financial planning advice provided by our firm, you will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from relevant custodians, for a securities account. Financial plans are based on your financial situation at the time we present the plan to you, and on the financial information you provide to us. You must promptly notify our firm if your financial situation, goals, objectives, or needs change.

# **Financial Consulting Services**

We offer financial consulting services that primarily involve advising Clients on specific financial-related topics. The topics we address include but are not limited to: risk assessment/management, investment planning, retirement planning, financial organization, or financial decision making.

## **Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program**

We utilize an unaffiliated third-party platform that can allow an IAR of the Firm to facilitate the management of held-away assets for certain employer-sponsored retirement plan assets on a discretionary basis. Through this platform, the Firm does not take custody of your funds and does not have direct access to your account(s). A link will be provided to the Client, allowing them to connect account(s) to the platform. Once your account(s) is connected to the third-party platform, your IAR will review the current account(s) allocations and, when necessary, will make any changes in the current holdings and/or future allocations based on their understanding of your goals, objectives, risk tolerance, and any other circumstances necessary to make investment changes within the account. Account allocations are limited based on the options made available by the employer-sponsored plan and such limitations may impact the IARs ability to effectively manage the assets. Please be mindful that should your employer-sponsored plan make a "brokerage window" available, your IAR will not be able to manage securities through this feature.

## **Pension Consulting Services**

We offer pension consulting services to employee benefit plans and their fiduciaries based upon the needs of the plan and the services requested by the plan sponsor or named fiduciary. In general, these services include an existing plan review and analysis, plan-level advice regarding fund selection and investment options, education services to plan participants, investment performance monitoring, and/or ongoing consulting. These pension consulting services will generally be non-discretionary and advisory in nature. The ultimate decision to act on behalf of the plan shall remain with the plan sponsor or other named fiduciary.

• We also offer assistance with participant enrollment meetings and provide investment-related educational seminars to plan participants on such topics as: diversification, asset allocation, risk tolerance, and time horizon.

Our educational seminars include other investment-related topics specific to the particular plan.

We also provide additional types of pension consulting services to plans on an individually negotiated basis. All services, whether discussed above or customized for the plan based upon requirements from

the plan fiduciaries (which may include additional plan-level or participant-level services) shall be detailed in a written agreement and be consistent with the parameters set forth in the plan documents.

We will determine with the Client in advance the scope of services to be performed and the fees for all requested services. Prior to engaging us to provide consulting services, the Client will be required to enter into a written agreement with us setting forth the terms and conditions of the engagement, describing the scope of the services to be provided, and the relevant fees and fee-paying arrangements. The services outlined above that we provide are explained in more detail in the written agreement. We will also provide additional disclosures about our services and fees, where required by ERISA. When we perform the agreed upon services, we will rely on the Client to provide accurate and consistent information, and we will not be required to verify the accuracy or consistency of any information provided by the Client. We will serve in a non-discretionary ERISA fiduciary capacity with respect to some but not all of the services that we provide, which will be further explained in the written agreement we sign with the Client. The Client is always free to seek independent advice about the appropriateness of any recommendations made by us.

The agreement we sign with the Client includes the disclosures required of Advisory Representative under Section 408(b)(2) of ERISA, in particular, (i) the services to be provided by Advisory Representative, (ii) the extent to which Advisory Representative is acting as a fiduciary, (iii) the compensation to be received by Advisory Representative, and the manner of receipt of that compensation, and (iv) any fees payable on termination of the agreement. Advisory Representative receives no indirect compensation in respect of the services provided pursuant to the agreement. We retain a portion of the compensation described in the agreement for our services in connection with the agreement, the amount of which varies with our arrangement with each Advisory Representative. Pursuant to the agreement, Advisory Representative neither provides recordkeeping services nor makes available any designated investment alternative for the plan nor advises any investment contract, fund or entity in which the plan has a direct equity investment, and no disclosures under Section 408(b)(2) are thus required to be provided in respect of those matters.

## **Assets Under Management**

As of December 31, 2023, we provide continuous management services for \$13,361,566,226 in Client assets managed on a discretionary basis. We also manage \$2,026,889,831 in Client assets on a non-discretionary basis.

## **Fiduciary Responsibility for Retirement Accounts**

When we provide investment advice to a Client, on a regular basis, regarding a retirement plan account or individual retirement account, SPIA is a fiduciary within the meaning of Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as applicable. The way SPIA makes money creates some conflicts with your interests, so we operate under regulations that require us to act in the best interest of the Client and not put SPIA's interest ahead of the Client's interest.

Pursuant to these regulations, we must:

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

# **Item 5: Fees and Compensation**

## **Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services**

Our annual fee for investment advisory and portfolio management services varies based on factors such as, but not limited to; the IAR, the market value of your assets under management, the type and complexity of the asset management services provided, the securities utilized, and the investment strategy employed, as well as the level of administration requested either directly or assumed by the Client. Assets in each of your account(s) are included in the fee assessment unless specifically identified in writing for exclusion. Each of our IARs negotiates fees directly with you.

You will be charged a certain percentage of assets under management but, in no event will our fees exceed 3.00% on an annualized basis. We charge our fee quarterly in advance based on the value of the account on the last day of the quarter.

If the portfolio management agreement is executed at any time other than the first day of a calendar quarter, our fees will apply on a pro rata basis, which means that the advisory fee is payable in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a Client.

At our discretion, we can combine the account values of family members living in the same household to determine the applicable negotiated advisory fee. For example, we can combine account values for you and your minor children, joint accounts with your spouse, and other types of related accounts.

We will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

You can terminate the portfolio management agreement upon 30 days written notice. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the portfolio management agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a Client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

As disclosed in Item 4 above, programs offered by SPIA are considered to be Wrap Fee Programs sponsored by RJA in that there are no commissions or transaction charges. The advisory fee paid by the Client includes custody, trades, management expertise and reporting in a bundled format. Please see the respective RJA Wrap Fee Program Brochure for more information on the fees you will pay.

## **Aggregation of Related Fee-Based Accounts**

Raymond James aggregates fee-based accounts for billing purposes based primarily on information provided by IARs and Clients, however, it is the Client's obligation to notify SPIA if there are accounts that the Client believes should be included as "related" and SPIA reserves the right to determine whether accounts are "related" in its sole discretion. Clients can request that Raymond James aggregate their fee-based accounts for billing purposes so that each account will pay a fee under the applicable program fee schedule that is calculated on the basis of the "Relationship Value" (that is, the total aggregate Account Values of all related accounts). In general, related accounts are typically combined based on how the Client instructs their registered representative/IAR to link their accounts for the delivery of brokerage statements, trade confirmations and other forms of Client communications. Please note that Raymond James is subject to limitations in its ability to combine a Client's retirement accounts where a prohibited transaction under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 or the Internal Revenue Code could result.

Clients that negotiate a reduced asset-based fee with their IAR should understand that this discounted rate will be applied until otherwise renegotiated or until the aggregate Relationship Value of their combined fee-based accounts reaches a level that would qualify for the reduced retroactive rate under the applicable program fee schedule. That is, the negotiated discount rate would be applied until the applicable program fee schedule breakpoint would result in a lower fee.

## **Other Asset Management Services**

SPIA also offers asset management services to former clients of Monaco Capital Management, LLC and Saling Simms Associates Inc. The compensation for these specific services is described in more detail below.

Monaco Capital Management, LLC

For these asset management services, clients pay fees based on a percentage of their assets under management by household. The maximum fee schedules are below.

## PERCENTAGE OF ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT\*

Household Assets Under Management	<b>Tiered Annual Fee</b>
\$0 to \$500,000	2.50%
Next \$500,000	1.50%
Next \$4,000,000	1.00%
Above \$5,000,000	0.75%

Fees are billed quarterly in advance, based on the value of each client's household assets, including cash, on the last day of the previous quarter. The initial quarter's fees are prorated based upon the number of days the assets are managed by us.

The Client Agreement may be terminated by the Client or the Firm at any time upon providing notice pursuant to the provisions of the Client Agreement. In the event of termination of the Agreement, the Firm will refund a portion of the fee for the guarter of termination.

Saling Simms Associates Inc..

These services are offered on a wrap fee basis in which all transaction fees are included within the advisory fees that you pay.

Fees for accounts are priced as follows:

For Fee-Based Relationship Value Totaling:	Fee (Annual percentage) *
\$0 up to \$1,000,000	1.25%
\$1,000,001 up to \$5,000,000	1.00%
\$5,000,001 up to No Maximum	0.70%

The advisory fee will be payable quarterly in advance. When the account is opened, the advisory fee is billed for the remainder of the current billing period and is based on the initial contribution. The initial payment will become due in full on the date of inception. Subsequent quarterly advisory fees will be calculated based on the account value as of the last business day of the previous calendar quarter and will become due the following business day.

Our firm, in its sole discretion, may charge a lesser investment advisory fee based upon certain criteria (e.g., historical relationship, types of assets, anticipated future additional assets, dollar amounts of assets to be managed, related accounts, account composition, etc.).

## OTHER COMPENSATION CONSIDERATIONS

## **Administrative-Only Investments**

Certain securities can be held in your advisory account and designated as "Administrative-Only Investments" or non-billable assets. There are two primary categories of Administrative-Only Investments: Client-designated and TPMM-designated. Client-designated Administrative-Only Investments can be designated by IARs that do not wish to collect an advisory fee on certain assets, while TPMM designated Administrative-Only Investments are designated by the TPMM in conformance with their internal policy. For example, an IAR may make an arrangement with a Client who holds a

security that the IAR did not recommend, or the Client wishes to hold for an extended period of time and does not wish for their IAR to sell for the foreseeable future. In such cases the IAR can elect to waive the advisory fee on this security but allow it to be held in the Client's advisory account - such designations fall into the Client-designated category. Alternatively, the TPMM may determine that certain securities can be held in an advisory account but are temporarily not eligible for the advisory fee (such as for mutual funds purchased with a front-end sales charge within the last two years, new issues and syndicate offerings). Assets designated by the TPMM as temporarily exempt from the advisory fee fall into the TPMM-designated category. See RJA Wrap Brochure for more detail. Please note that SPIA does not provide ongoing monitoring services or otherwise offer advice on administrative-only positions.

## Mutual Funds Assessed or Subject to 12B-1 Fees or Sales Charges

Certain mutual funds, in addition to the management fees and operating expenses, pay RJA Rule 12b-1 fees, also known as "trails." In certain circumstances, RJA will choose to make share classes available that pay 12b-1 fees in investment advisory programs even if a less costly share class is available, due to the ability for Raymond James to earn marketing and education support payments from the fund adviser or its affiliates. These marketing and education support payments benefit Raymond James but do not increase costs to the Client, as the 12b-1 is refunded to the Client. Raymond James receives 12b-1 fees from fund companies on either a monthly or quarterly basis. Where advisory fee-eligible share classes that pay 12b-1 fees are used, the 12b-1 fees will be credited bi-monthly to the Client's advisory account, after they are received by Raymond James. However, 12b-1 fees received by Raymond James on share classes that are not eligible for the advisory fee, such as class C shares designated as Administrative-Only Investments, will not be credited to the Client's account as described above, but instead will be paid to your IAR.

Many mutual funds also assess sales charges on mutual fund transactions (the mutual fund equivalent to a commission, also known as a "load"), a portion of which is paid by the fund company to compensate broker-dealers and their registered representatives for providing financial advice and Client service. Sales charges apply when you make your investment (known as a "front-end sales charge" or "front-end load"), or when you redeem your investment (known as a "back-end sales charge" or "back- end load"),

Certain mutual fund shares transferred to RJA to fund a new account or supplement an existing account will be subject to Raymond James's billing procedures, including those related to 12b- 1 fees or "trails," Administrative-Only Investments, or conversion processes (for example, C shares held for at least one year, and share classes designated for use by managed account programs), as applicable.

In June 2018, Raymond James began converting existing advisory fee-eligible mutual fund positions in Ambassador accounts to a specific mutual fund share class ("wrap recommended share class") in an effort to provide advisory Clients with lowest cost share class available through Raymond James. This conversion does not apply to non-wrap eligible, non-billable positions such as C shares or other backend load shares that can be held in a Client's Ambassador account and not eligible for advisory fee billing. Raymond James will perform ongoing monthly maintenance conversions to ensure the wrap recommended share class has been selected for the Client's account. These share class conversions are non-taxable events, and Clients' cost basis will carry over to the new wrap recommended share class.

Raymond James has established conversion processes to exchange class C shares to a lower cost share class once the class C shares have been held for at least one year or are otherwise no longer subject to the fund company's contingent deferred sales charge (or CDSC, which is typically 1% of the amount invested). The one year holding period is the required minimum holding period typically established by fund companies before they become eligible for exchange to another share class without being subject to the CDSC. However, certain funds require that investors hold the class C shares greater than or less than one year before these shares are CDSC-free. CDSC-free class C shares held in advisory program accounts will automatically be exchanged, on a tax-free basis, to the recommended share class by Raymond James on a monthly basis. For example, a Client that holds \$50,000 in class C shares purchased 6 months ago that subsequently transfers these shares to their Ambassador account will not be assessed an advisory fee for 6 months, although the shares will be subsequently exchanged by Raymond James to the recommended share class the month after they are CDSC-free, at which point the newly exchanged shares will be subject to advisory fees.

Investments held in Ambassador Accounts can be comprised of mutual fund shares (both load-waived and no-load funds are permitted), individual equity and fixed income securities, or a combination of mutual fund shares and individual securities. With respect to load funds, only such funds for which the sales charge has been waived, pursuant to SEC Rules, are permitted to be purchased and eligible for the advisory fee in these programs. Clients can hold fund shares in a fee-based Ambassador account that were originally purchased in a commission-based account and assessed a front-end load at Raymond James. However, Raymond James will designate these shares as Administrative-Only assets for two years from their original purchase date, and no advisory fee will be charged during this period. Likewise, structured investments such as market-linked notes and market-linked certificates of deposit, as well as unit investment trusts assessed an upfront commission will be designated as Administrative-Only assets, and no advisory fees will be assessed for two years from their original purchase date. This two-year exclusion period (or "Two Year Rule") has been implemented by Raymond James to avoid Clients being assessed both a load or commission and an advisory fee on the same asset, but only applies to those above-mentioned securities that were purchased through Raymond James.

In the event a Client purchased a share class designated as Administrative-Only (or "ineligible") that is subsequently exchanged into a share class that is otherwise eligible for advisory fees (for example, class C shares held for a year and exchanged into a no-load or load-waived class A share as described above), the Two Year Rule will not apply, provided the Client held the ineligible share class at least one year before converting to an eligible share class and the original load was 1.05% or less. Clients should understand that this Two-Year Rule may create a financial incentive for their IAR to recommend the Client exchange to an advisory fee eligible share class. However, per the above example of exchanging C shares to load-waived A shares, this incentive is mitigated by disclosing it to you and by requiring that the C shares must be held for at least one year before they will be allowed to be exchanged for A shares, where the load associated with C shares is typically 1%. The Two-Year Rule is expressly intended to avoid assessing advisory fees on share classes assessed a load in excess of 1%, where the maximum load is typically in excess of 4%.

## **Billing on Cash Balances**

SPIA permits cash and cash equivalent positions (such as money market funds or certificates of deposit) for defensive and liquidity purposes. RJA will assess advisory fees on cash sweep balances ("cash") held in Ambassador accounts, provided the cash balance does not exceed 20% of the total Account Value. RJA will determine the Account Value as of the last business day of the quarter (the "valuation date"). RJA will bill on the full cash balance provided cash did not comprise greater than 20% of the billable Account Value for three (3) consecutive quarterly valuation dates. If the cash balance exceeded 20% of the Account Value for three (3) consecutive quarterly valuation dates, the amount in excess of 20% is excluded from billing. For example, an Ambassador account that held 30% of the Account Value for three (3) consecutive billing valuation dates (March 31st, June 30th, and September 30th) would have the amount in excess of 20% excluded from the Account Value in which advisory fees are applied. For simplicity of illustration, assuming an account was valued at \$100,000 for all three (3) quarterly billing periods, with \$30,000 held in cash, the September 30th valuation date would exclude \$10,000 of the cash from the Account Value, when assessing the advisory fee.

Within the Ambassador account, the Cash Rule applies on an individual account basis. The Cash Rule may pose a financial disincentive to a financial advisor as the portion of cash sweep balances in excess of 20% is excluded from the Fee charged to the account. This fee billing provision (or "Cash Rule") is intended to equitably assess advisory fees to Client assets for which an ongoing advisory service is being provided; the exclusion of excess cash from the advisory fee is intended to benefit Clients holding substantial cash balances (as a percentage of the total individual Account Value) for an extended period of time. Clients should understand that the portion of the account held in cash will experience negative performance if the applicable advisory fee charged is higher than the return received on the cash sweep balance although such cash balances will not be subject to market risk (that is, risk of loss) associated with securities investments. As a result, Clients should periodically re-evaluate whether their maintenance of a cash balance is appropriate in light of their financial situation and investment goals, and should understand that this cash can be held outside of their advisory account and not subject to advisory fees.

For Discretionary Ambassador accounts, the Cash Rule poses a financial incentive for an IAR to limit cash sweep balances to 20% or less of the Account Value, as values over 20% for three consecutive quarterly

valuations will be excluded from the asset-based fee charged to the account. An IAR could choose to reallocate a Client account from cash to advisory fee eligible investments, including money market funds, or to recommend against raising cash, in order to avoid the application of this provision and therefore receive a fee on the full account value. This conflict is mitigated by disclosing it to you. However, please note that Clients who have delegated investment discretion to their IAR can direct their IAR to raise cash by selling investments or hold a predetermined percentage of their account in cash at any time. The Cash Rule is applicable only to cash sweep balances and, therefore, non-sweep money market funds would not result in excess "cash" balances being excluded from the asset based advisory fee calculation.

Cash balances in AMS managed program accounts are generally expected to be a small percentage of the overall account value as determined by the managers and therefore these accounts are not subject to the Cash Rule.

For cash sweeps in IRAs and ERISA plans held at RJA as the custodian, RJA uses its bank affiliate exclusively as a depository. Please see "Investment of Cash Reserves" for additional information on cash sweep options.

If you are seeking the highest yield currently available in the market for your cash balances please contact your IAR to discuss investment options available outside of the available sweep features that may be more suitable for your investment goals.

## **Investment of Cash Reserves**

RJA has established certain programs through which cash reserves "sweep" daily to and from the Client's investment account to cover purchases or to allow excess cash balances to immediately begin earning interest, subject to certain minimum balances. The account in which these cash reserves are held is considered the Client's sweep account. RJA sweep programs include the following:

- •Client Interest Program® (CIP)
- Raymond James Bank Deposit Program ("RJBDP"), including:
  - RJBDP Raymond James Bank Only
  - · RJBDP with CIP

However, not all sweep programs are available in all accounts; rather, what sweep programs are available depends on the specific account type. Please refer to the specific program guide or RJA Wrap Fee brochure for additional information.

For important information on what sweep programs are available for each account type and how each sweep program operates, please refer to "Sweeps (Transfers) To and From Income-Producing Accounts" in the "Your Rights and Responsibilities as a Raymond James Client" Brochure, a current copy of which is available from your IAR, or you can visit the Raymond James public website for additional information: <a href="https://www.raymondjames.com/wealth-management/advice-products-and-services/banking-and-lending-services/cash-management/cash-sweeps">https://www.raymondjames.com/wealth-management/advice-products-and-services/banking-and-lending-services/cash-management/cash-sweeps</a> That website also includes a link at which the interest rates and rate tiers for CIP and RJBDP are posted online. For information on the rate being paid on your particular account(s), please contact your IAR or consult your periodic account statements.

With respect to cash reserves of advisory Client accounts, the custodian of the account assets will determine where cash reserves are held. The custodian will offer one or multiple options to different account types (such as non-taxable and managed accounts). In addition, the custodian can, among other things, consider terms and conditions, risks and features, conflicts of interest, current interest rates, the manner by which future interest rates will be determined, and the nature and extent of insurance coverage (such as deposit protection from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and SIPC). The custodian is permitted to change, modify, or amend an investment option at any time by providing the Client with thirty days advance written notice of such change, modification, or amendment. Clients selecting the Raymond James Bank Deposit Program ("RJBDP") option are responsible for monitoring the total amount of deposits held at each Bank in order to determine the extent of FDIC insurance coverage available. Raymond James is not responsible for any insured or uninsured portion of Client deposits at any of the Banks.

In the RJBDP sweep program, Raymond James receives revenue from the participating banks. Each participating bank, except Raymond James Bank, will pay Raymond James a fee equal to a percentage

of the average daily deposit balance in the Client account at the bank. The fee paid to Raymond James can be an annual rate of up to an average of 3% as applied across all Client accounts taken in aggregate. Raymond James Bank will pay Raymond James an annual fee of up to

\$100 per account. Raymond James does not receive fees in connection with account deposits of advisory IRAs and ERISA accounts.

Deposits in Client accounts at Raymond James Bank provide a stable and low-cost source of funds for Raymond James Bank which helps contribute to the overall profitability of the Bank. Raymond James Bank generally earns a higher rate of interest on deposit balances than the interest it pays on those balances. The banks participating in the sweep programs earn income by lending or investing the deposits they receive and charging a higher interest rate to borrowers, or earning a higher yield, than the participating banks pay on the deposits held through these sweep programs. Like the other participating banks in the program, Raymond James Bank earns revenue minus interest paid by Raymond James as a participating member to Clients who have assets on deposit at Raymond James Bank. Raymond James Bank is permitted to also buy securities using the deposits placed in the RJBDP sweep program. Raymond James Bank uses the funds in the Client accounts to fund new lending and investment activity. The revenue received by Raymond James Bank on those balances is dependent upon lending activities and which securities are purchased. The profitability of Raymond James Bank is determined in large part by the difference between the interest paid and other costs associated with its deposits, and the interest or other income earned on its loans, investments, and other assets.

Raymond James Bank and the interest rate it offers through the RJBDP sweeps can differ from the interest rate or yield on the Client Interest Program ("CIP"). Raymond James Bank does not receive revenue for assets held within the CIP sweep program and in those cases where assets are not allocated to Raymond James as part of the RJBDP sweep program.

The revenue generated by Raymond James or an affiliate will vary compared to revenue generated by sweep programs available at other firms. The interest rate or yield on the Raymond James sweep programs can be higher or lower than the interest rate or yield available in other sweep programs at other institutions. Clients may be able to earn more favorable rates of return by investing in other asset classes, including alternatives to cash such as money market mutual funds and treasury bills, but performance of those asset classes is not guaranteed.

# Additional Expenses Not Included in the Asset-Based Advisory Fee

You are also subject to charges for other account services provided by the custodian not directly related to the advisory, execution, and clearing services provided including, but not limited to, IRA custodial fees, safekeeping fees, charges/interest for maintenance of margin and/or short positions, and fees for legal or courtesy transfers of securities.

For a complete list of account service charges, visit Raymond James's public website: http://www.raymondjames.com/services\_and\_charges.htm.

Certain open-end mutual funds that are available to you, may, in addition to assessing management fees, internally assess a distribution fee pursuant to section 12(b)-1 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, or an administrative or service fee ("trail"). Such fees are included in the calculation of operating expenses of a mutual fund and are disclosed in the fund prospectus. IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS are eligible to receive this fee in addition to any advisory fee that is assessed in your account. However, the IAR would not receive both the advisory fee and 12b-1 fee on the same position. The existence of a 12(b)-1 fee is disclosed in the mutual fund prospectus.

You should also understand that the shares of certain mutual funds offered in an advisory program impose short-term trading charges (typically 1%-2% of the amount originally invested) for redemptions generally made within short periods of time. These short-term charges are imposed by the funds to deter "market timers" who trade actively in fund shares. You should consider these short-term trading charges when selecting the program and/or mutual funds in which they invest. These charges, as well as operating expenses and management fees, can increase the overall cost to you by 1%-2% (or more). More information is available in each fund's prospectus.

You should be aware that exchange traded funds ("ETFs") incur a separate management fee based on the fund's assets annually which is assessed by the fund directly. This management fee is in addition to the ongoing advisory fee assessed by SPIA, and will generally result in Clients which utilize an SMA or TPMM or Investment Strategy that invests in ETFs paying more than Clients utilizing one that does not invest in ETFs, without taking into effect negotiated asset-based fee discounts, if any.

Certain ETFs are classified as partnerships for U.S. federal income tax purposes, which may result in unique tax treatment, including Schedule K-1 reporting. Prospective or existing Clients should consult their tax adviser for additional information regarding the tax consequences associated with the purchase, ownership, and disposition of such investments.

Additional information is also available in the ETF prospectus, which is available upon request.

The cost structures of Mutual Funds differ significantly, typically ranging from 0.75% to 1.5% versus .20% to 1% for ETFs.

Alternative Investments refers to securities products that serve as alternatives to more traditional asset classes and include investment products such as hedge funds, private equity funds, private real estate funds and structured products. IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS can offer you a wide range of alternative investments. It is important for you to work with us to evaluate how a particular alternative investment and its features fit your individual needs and objectives. An important component of the selection process includes carefully reading the accompanying offering documents and/or prospectus prior to making a purchase decision. The offering documents contain important information that will help you make an informed choice.

As part of the review process, you should consider the fees and expenses associated with a particular alternative investment, along with the fact that IARs will receive compensation related to any such purchase. It is important to note that the fees and expenses related to alternative investments are often higher than those of more traditional investments.

While each investment will differ in terms of both total fees and expenses and how those fees and expenses are calculated, the following section will discuss the primary categories of fees and expenses that are common to many alternative investments and the different ways that our Company and our IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS can be compensated.

- Management fees: The manager for any particular investment will often charge a management
  fee that is based on the total value of your investment. As the value of your investment increases,
  the total management fees that a manager receives will increase. As the value of your
  investment decreases, the total management fees that a manager receives will decrease. These
  fees are similarly structured but are often higher than management fees associated with other,
  more traditional, investments such as mutual funds. IARs that are also registered representatives
  of SPIS share in a portion of management fees to which an investment manager is entitled.
- Incentive-based compensation: Many alternative investment managers receive incentive-based compensation in addition to management fees. Incentive-based fees typically involve the manager retaining a percentage of profits generated for Clients. Fees related to incentive compensation are often referred to as incentive/performance-based fees or carried interest. It is important to note that these fees are in addition to management fees that are charged by the manager and that the exact calculation of incentive fees or carried interest differs by product and manager. IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS may share in any incentive-based compensation to which an investment manager is entitled.
- Upfront or ongoing servicing fees or placement fees: Many alternative investments have upfront costs directly related to compensating IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS. These fees are generally based on the total amount of your investment. Additionally, there may be ongoing fees, based on the value of your investment, that are directly related to compensating IARs that are also registered representatives of SPIS.
- Redemption fees: Some investments may have direct or indirect costs related to liquidating your position, particularly if an investment is liquidated shortly after being purchased or if an investment is specifically designed to provide limited or no liquidity to investors.

Alternative investment strategies can be accessed through a variety of legal structures, including mutual funds, limited partnerships, and limited liability companies. In certain structures, particularly for new offerings, investors can incur organization and offering expenses that are related to the creation of the legal structure and marketing of the product. These costs ultimately serve to decrease the amount of the

Client's investment. Additionally, investors may incur other expenses based on the investment activity of the fund. For instance, in a real estate fund, investors can be charged fees related to the acquisition of a property. In a hedge fund that shorts stock, there are costs associated with establishing and maintaining the short position. Lastly, investors in alternative investments generally bear the cost of certain ongoing expenses related to administration of the product. These expenses include costs related to tax document preparation, auditing services or custodial services.

Alternative investments often have limited liquidity, intermittent pricing and values based on appraisalbased pricing versus market-based pricing. Client accounts with alternative investments are charged advisory fees based on the fair value of the assets determined by the underlying fund managers. The fund managers value investments at fair value, which is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at measurement date. Please note: Values based on information from the funds, may not be currently priced, are for informational purposes only and may not be realized if you seek to liquidate your investment. There may not be an established market for interests in alternative investment funds or for privately held portfolio companies of alternative investment funds, and there may not be any comparable companies for which public market valuations exist. Additionally, if an alternative investment is reflected on your statement, the value reflected is often an estimate subject to revision by the fund manager. One or a combination of these issues impact the value on which you are charged when your investment is eligible for asset-based advisory fees. Client accounts will not be adjusted based on value revisions made by the fund manager or fluctuations in the fair value subsequent to advisory fees being charged. Thus, Client accounts may be charged advisory fees that can be higher or lower than the actual value of the assets. We will typically only assess an advisory fee on alternative investment products that are priced at least quarterly and are not assessed an upfront commission or sales load upon initial investment. Conversely, alternative investment products not eligible for the asset-based advisory fee typically price less frequently than quarterly and/or have an upfront commission or sales load assessed upon the initial investment; such investments will be designated as Administrative-Only assets.

You should also understand that certain no-load variable annuities can be offered in the Ambassador program and charged an advisory fee. The annual advisory fees charged for these no-load variable annuities are in addition to the management fees and operating expenses charged by the insurance companies offering these products.

Your total cost of each of the services provided through these programs, if purchased separately, could be more or less than the costs of each respective program. Cost factors include your ability to:

- obtain the services provided within the programs separately with respect to the selection of mutual funds,
- · invest and rebalance the selected mutual funds without the payment of a sales charge, and
- obtain performance reporting comparable to those provided within each program.

When making cost comparisons, you should be aware that the combination of multiple mutual fund investments, advisory services, and custodial and brokerage services available through each program may not be available separately or can require multiple accounts, documentation, and fees. If an account is actively traded or you otherwise do not qualify for reduced sales charges for fund purchases, the fees can be less expensive than separately paying the sales charges and advisory fees. If an account is not actively traded or you otherwise would qualify for reduced sales charges, the fees in these programs can be more expensive than if utilized separately. Further information regarding fees assessed by mutual funds, variable annuities or UITs is available in the appropriate prospectus, available upon request.

The mutual funds and ETFs available in the advisory programs can often be purchased directly. Therefore, you could avoid the second layer of fees by not using the investment advisory account and making your own decisions regarding the investment.

If you are considering transferring mutual fund shares to or from SPIS you should be aware that if the firm from or to which the shares are to be transferred does not have a selling agreement with the fund company, you must either redeem the shares (paying any applicable contingent deferred sales charge and potentially incurring a tax liability) or continue to maintain an investment account at the firm where the fund shares are currently being held. You should inquire as to the transferability, or "portability", of mutual fund shares prior to initiating such a transfer.

## **Buying Securities on Margin and Margin Interest**

If suitable for you, you can open a margin account for the purpose of borrowing funds for securities purchases. If a margin account is opened, you will be charged interest on any credit balance extended to or maintained on your behalf at RJA. While the value of the margined security will appear as a debit on your statement the margin balance in an account(s) will be assessed asset-based advisory fees based on the gross value of the account(s) without any offset for margin or debit balances. This creates a conflict of interest where your IAR benefits from the use of margin by creating a higher absolute market value and therefore receiving a higher fee. This conflict is mitigated by disclosing it to you.

If you purchase securities on margin you should understand: 1) the use of borrowed money will result in greater gains or losses than otherwise would be the case without the use of margin, and 2) there will be no benefit from using margin if the performance of your account does not exceed the interest expense being charged on the margin balance plus the additional advisory fees assessed on the securities purchased using margin. Read the Truth in Lending Statement carefully prior to opening a margin account.

## **Short Sales**

When executing short sales, you should be aware that RJA receives compensation for maintenance of the short position, which is in addition to the asset-based advisory fee. This compensation is generally calculated on a daily basis as a percentage of the current market value of the security sold short. With respect to short sales, the Client will be assessed asset-based advisory fees based on the value of the security sold short, but not on the proceeds received upon initiation of the short sale. Three of the major variables that impact the amount of the fee RJA retains, as well as the transparency of the fee on your statement are: 1) availability of the security from RJA; 2) the current interest rate environment in the U.S.; and 3) the availability of the security based on the supply and demand of loanable securities in the market.

When you borrow a security which RJA can lend from its own inventory or its available customers' securities holdings, RJA generally retains all of the fees generated by that loan. In a higher interest rate environment, this fee may not be transparent to you because RJA may not charge it directly to your account. In such instances, the fee is retained from the return generated by the investment of the collateral posted for the transaction (such as short sale cash proceeds). In the case of a limited supply of a loanable security and/or a lower interest rate environment, the interest earned on the invested cash collateral may not be sufficient to cover the fee; in this case RJA can directly charge the fee to your account until the borrowed balance is closed.

In cases where RJA has no available supply of loanable securities, RJA can borrow the security from another firm. In these cases, you will be charged a fee to cover the borrowed securities, and RJA and the firm which lent the securities will generally split this fee. As above, in a higher interest rate environment this fee may not be transparent to you because the fee is retained from the return generated by the investment of the collateral posted for the transaction and not charged directly to the account. Alternatively, where the interest earned is not sufficient to cover the fee, RJA can directly charge the fee to your account until the borrowed balance is closed; a portion of that fee is passed from RJA to the firm from which the securities were borrowed.

## **Financial Planning and Financial Consulting Services**

Financial planning and consulting fees are negotiable. Fees charged for these services will be dependent upon the anticipated time to provide the services and complexity of the plan and/or your financial situation. The fees are determined in advance and disclosed to you at the time the Investment Advisory Consulting Agreement is executed. It is possible that you would pay more or less for similar services which are available through another firm.

The manner in which you pay financial planning and consulting fees are payable as follows:

- 1. Hourly rates for plan development or consultation will vary depending on the amount of time it takes to complete services rendered.
- 2. Fixed fees for plans or consulting services will vary depending on a number of factors which include, but are not limited to, the complexity and comprehensiveness of the plan or consulting services rendered.
- 3. Fees as a percentage of assets are generally assessed on the aggregate value for which services are rendered. Services rendered and fees charged are disclosed in each Investment Advisory Consulting

Agreement.

You can terminate the advisory relationship without penalty within five (5) business days of entering into the advisory agreement.

It is important to note that we provide investment products or securities recommendations as part of financial planning services or hourly consulting services. This presents a conflict to the extent that your IAR receives compensation from implementation of such recommendations. Also, compensation to your IAR varies depending on the product or service your IAR recommends.

In providing financial planning services, we may recommend our services and/or our Associated Persons services in their separate capacity as licensed insurance agents and/or registered representatives of SPIS. A conflict of interest exists when we make such recommendations. You are under no obligation to act on our financial planning recommendations. Should you choose to act on any of our recommendations, you are not obligated to implement the recommendations through your IAR or our firm. If you decide to implement the financial plan or consulting advice through one of the programs or services we offer, your IAR will provide you at the time of engagement with a Client agreement that will contain specific information about fees and compensation that your IAR and SPIA will receive in connection with that program.

You should also understand that your IAR can perform advisory services for various other Clients and give advice or take actions for those other Clients that differ from the advice given to you. Also, the timing or nature of any action taken for your account can be different. You should note that similar advisory services may be available from other registered investment advisers for similar or lower fees.

In the event we agree to billing in advance, we do not require you to pay fees in excess of \$1,200 six months or more in advance. Should the engagement last longer than six months between acceptance of financial planning agreement and delivery of the financial plan, any prepaid unearned fees will be promptly returned to you less a pro rata charge for bona fide financial planning services rendered to date. At our discretion, we can offset our financial planning fees to the extent you implement the financial plan through our Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services.

Our financial planning fees are negotiable and generally payable in advance of services rendered. You can terminate the financial planning agreement by providing written notice to our firm. If you have prepaid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

Either party can terminate the advisory agreement. You can terminate upon 30 days written notice to our firm. If you were charged fees in arrears, you will be responsible for a prorated fee based on services performed. If fees are paid in advance, you may be entitled to a refund of unearned fees.

#### **Selection of Other Advisers**

We do not charge you a separate fee for the selection of other advisers. We will share in the advisory fee you pay directly to the TPMM. The advisory fee you pay to the TPMM is established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each TPMM to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. Our compensation can differ depending upon the individual agreement we have with each TPMM. As such, a conflict of interest exists where our firm or persons associated with our firm has an incentive to recommend one TPMM over another TPMM with whom we have more favorable compensation arrangements or other advisory programs offered by TPMMs with whom we have less or no compensation arrangements.

Advisory fees charged by TPMMs are separate and apart from our advisory fees. Assets managed by TPMMs will be included in calculating our advisory fee, which is based on the fee schedule set forth in the *Investment Advisory and Portfolio Management Services* section in this brochure. Advisory fees that you pay to the TPMM are established and payable in accordance with the brochure provided by each TPMM to whom you are referred. These fees may or may not be negotiable. You should review the recommended TPMM's brochure and take into consideration the TPMM's fees along with our fees to determine the total amount of fees associated with this program.

You may be required to sign an agreement directly with the recommended TPMM(s). You can terminate your advisory relationship with the TPMM according to the terms of your agreement with the TPMM. You should review each TPMM's brochure for specific information on how you are able to terminate your advisory relationship with the TPMM and how you will receive a refund, if applicable. You should contact the TPMM directly for questions regarding your advisory agreement with the TPMM.

# **Advised Retirement Plan Accounts Program**

You will be charged an Advisory Fee as specified in your program agreement. A portion of the Advisory Fee is paid to the third party in exchange for access to their system. Fees are assessed quarterly in advance and determined based on the total account value on the last business day of the prior quarter. However, for the initial period, the Advisory fee 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 market value of assets in the account on or about that date. No Fee adjustment will be made during any quarter for appreciation or depreciation in asset value during that current period, nor shall any adjustment or refund be made with respect to partial additions or withdrawals during that current period.

Fees cannot be debited directly from the employer-sponsored plan. You are required to maintain a non-qualified brokerage account with the Firm from where the Advisory fee will be debited. In the event of an account closure or termination of the agreement, Advisory fees will not be rebated based on the remaining days in the period.

# **Pension Consulting Services**

Our advisory fees for these customized services will be negotiated with the plan sponsor or named fiduciary on a case-by-case basis.

Depending on the arrangements made at the inception of the engagement we will agree to either send you an invoice for the payment of our advisory fee, or we will deduct our fee directly from your account through the qualified custodian holding your funds and securities. We will deduct our advisory fee only when you have given our firm written authorization permitting the fees to be paid directly from your account. Further, the qualified custodian will deliver an account statement to you at least quarterly. These account statements will show all disbursements from your account. You should review all statements for accuracy.

You may terminate the pension consulting services agreement upon 30 days written notice to our firm. You will incur a pro rata charge for services rendered prior to the termination of the agreement, which means you will incur advisory fees only in proportion to the number of days in the quarter for which you are a Client. If you have pre-paid advisory fees that we have not yet earned, you will receive a prorated refund of those fees.

## **Additional Fees and Expenses**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may invest, or recommend that you invest, in mutual funds and exchange traded funds in a retail brokerage account. The fees that you pay to our firm for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the fees and expenses charged by mutual funds or exchange traded funds (described in each fund's prospectus) to their shareholders. These fees will generally include a management fee and other fund expenses. You will also incur transaction charges and/or brokerage fees when purchasing or selling securities in a brokerage account. These charges and fees are typically imposed by the broker-dealer or custodian through whom your account transactions are executed. To fully understand the total cost you will incur, you should review all the fees charged by mutual funds, exchange traded funds, our firm, and others. For information on our brokerage practices, refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section of this brochure.

## Compensation for the Sale of Securities or Other Investment Products

Associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm are registered representatives with SPIS, our affiliated broker-dealer and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ("FINRA") and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation ("SIPC"). In their capacity as registered representatives, these associates receive compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities or other investment products, including sales charges, commissions, service fees or 12b-1 fees for the sale, or holding, of mutual funds. Compensation earned by these associates in their capacities as registered representatives is separate and in addition to our advisory fees. Associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may also be licensed as independent insurance agents. These associates will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to our advisory fees.

This receipt of commission-based compensation presents a conflict of interest because associates providing advice on behalf of our firm have an incentive to recommend investment or insurance products based on the compensation received. We mitigate this conflict by disclosing it to you and conducting a suitability review of your account and securities transactions in an effort to ensure that with any securities transaction the interests of the Client are ahead of the interests of the IAR or firm. Moreover, you are under no obligation to purchase securities or insurance products through any person affiliated with our firm.

## **Investment Advisor Representative Loans**

SPGA, in order to facilitate the recruitment of IARs and the acquisition of existing registered investment advisory firms ("RIAS") offers recruited IARs and the IARs of acquired RIAs recruitment loans (the "Recruitment Loans"). Any Recruitment Loans would be expected to have a term of up to ten (10) years and would be accompanied by an unrelated bonus agreement which would provide the recipient IAR of the loan with monies over a similar period to repay the loan over time (the "Bonus Agreement"). These Recruitment Loans and the Bonus Agreement payments would constitute an additional economic benefit for SPIA IARs.

The receipt of Recruitment Loans presents a conflict of interest because recruited or acquired IARs are incentivized to recommend that Clients move their assets to, and continue to utilize the services of, SPIA rather than basing such recommendations on a Client's particular needs or best interest. The Recruitment Loans incentivize Steward Partners, SPIA and its IARs to recommend that existing Clients begin or continue to utilize the services of SPIA. Persons providing investment advice on behalf of SPIA and who are also registered representatives of SPIS, along with their Clients, may choose to solely use RJA as their custodian. Consequently, these individuals are generally limited to conducting securities transactions through RJA. Please note: SPIA's IAR's have a fiduciary duty to act in the Client's best interest. Clients are reminded that they are not under any obligation to custody assets at a particular custodian or purchase securities commission products through SPIS and/or SPIA's IARs, and that they can purchase such securities commission products through other, non-affiliated broker-dealers or registered representatives. Clients are also reminded that they are not required to utilize RJA for its custodial services.

These conflicts are mitigated by disclosing them to you and by requiring that there be a review of your account at account opening and periodically to determine whether it is suitable and in your best interest in light of your investment objectives, risk tolerance, financial circumstances, and other characteristics.

#### **Growth Award Program**

The Growth Award Program ("Program") is intended to incentivize investment adviser representatives who grow their business by providing them with additional equity ownership in our parent company, Steward Partners Management Holdings ("SPMH"). The program incentivizes an IAR or IAR Team ("Team") who have a certain amount of growth in revenue as determined by the Firm in its sole discretion. An additional award representing a percentage of the amount awarded to the IAR/Team may be distributed among the IAR or Team's Support Staff, subject to the Firm's sole discretion and with Management Approval. The review period is based on Calendar Year production (January through December). Please contact us for further information on the program.

This program presents a conflict of interest between the IAR and/or the Team and you as a Client since it creates a financial incentive for the IAR and/or the Team to act to increase their revenue rather than acting in your best interest. However, as a fiduciary, SPIA and our IAR have an obligation to always put your interests first. In assessing whether this standard is met, we must determine whether our recommendations and investment strategies are not only appropriate for you but are in your best interests as well. We periodically evaluate the holdings in your account and the advice provided to you to ensure it aligns with your current investment objectives and risk tolerance. In addition, whenever trading could create a conflict of interest, we have an obligation to obtain your informed consent after providing full and fair disclosure of all material facts. While we cannot mitigate the conflict of interest, we believe the disclosures provided herein are sufficient for you to provide us with your informed consent before we engage in trading activity on your behalf.

#### **IRA Rollover Considerations**

As part of our investment advisory services to you, we may suggest you consider withdrawing the assets from your employer's retirement plan and roll the assets over to an individual retirement account ("IRA") that we will manage on your behalf. In doing so, we are acting as a fiduciary, within the meaning of Title I of ERISA and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. If you elect to roll the assets to an IRA that is subject to our management, we will charge you an asset-based fee as set forth in the agreement you executed with our firm. This practice presents a conflict of interest because associates providing investment advice on our behalf have an incentive to recommend a rollover to you for the purpose of generating fee-based compensation rather than solely based on your needs. You are under no obligation to complete the rollover. Moreover, if you do complete the rollover, you are under no obligation to have the assets in an IRA managed by our firm.

Pursuant to Department of Labor regulations, employers are required to permit former employees to keep their retirement assets in their company plan, if their vested balance is over \$5,000. Also, current employees can sometimes move assets out of their company plan before they retire or change jobs. In determining whether to complete the rollover to an IRA, and to the extent the following options are available, you should consider the costs and benefits of:

An employee will typically have four options:

- 1. Leaving the assets in your employer's (former employer's) plan.
- 2. Moving the assets to a new employer's retirement plan.
- 3. Cashing out and taking a taxable distribution from the plan.
- 4. Rolling the assets into an IRA rollover account.

Each of these options has advantages and disadvantages and before making a change we encourage you to speak with your CPA and/or tax attorney.

It is important that you understand the differences between these types of accounts and decide whether a rollover is best for you. Prior to proceeding, if you have questions contact your investment adviser representative. Please be sure to discuss your options with your IAR who will provide you with additional information.

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

We do not charge performance-based fees or participate in side-by-side management. Performance-based fees are fees that are based on a share of capital gains or capital appreciation of a Client's account. Side-by-side management refers to the practice of managing accounts that are charged performance-based fees while at the same time managing accounts that are not charged performance- based fees. Our fees are calculated as described in the *Fees and Compensation* section above and are not charged on the basis of a share of capital gains upon, or capital appreciation of, the funds in your advisory account.

# **Item 7: Types of Clients**

We offer investment advisory services to individuals (including high net worth individuals), pension and profit-sharing plans, trusts, estates, charitable organizations, corporations, and other business entities.

SPIA requires a minimum new advisory account opening value of \$25,000 in our Ambassador program. Other advisory programs through AMS have higher and lower minimums. Each IAR will also have different account relationship minimums and smaller accounts may be accepted based upon the specific circumstances of an account. Please refer to the specific program guide and/or the RJA Wrap Fee Program Brochure for more information on account minimums.

# Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

We will use one or more of the following methods of analysis or investment strategies when providing investment advice to you:

**Charting Analysis** - involves the gathering and processing of price and volume pattern information for a particular security, sector, broad index, or commodity. This price and volume pattern information is analyzed. The resulting pattern and correlation data are used to detect departures from expected performance and diversification and predict future price movements and trends.

Risk: Our charting analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements.
Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day
changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with
any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Technical Analysis** - involves studying past price patterns, trends, and interrelationships in the financial markets to assess risk-adjusted performance and predict the direction of both the overall market and specific securities.

• **Risk:** The risk of market timing based on technical analysis is that our analysis may not accurately detect anomalies or predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may reflect all information known about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

**Fundamental Analysis** - involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company and its industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value.

• **Risk:** The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Cyclical Analysis** - a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and can have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions.

• **Risk:** The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

**Long-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that the value of those securities will grow over a relatively long period of time, generally greater than one year.

• **Risk:** Using a long-term purchase strategy generally assumes the financial markets will go up in the long-term which may not be the case. There is also the risk that the segment of the market that you are invested in or perhaps just your particular investment will go down over time even if the overall financial markets advance. Purchasing investments long-term may create an opportunity cost - "locking-up" assets that may be better utilized in the short-term in other investments.

**Short-Term Purchases** - securities purchased with the expectation that they will be sold within a relatively short period of time, generally less than one year, to take advantage of the securities' short-term price fluctuations.

Risk: Using a short-term purchase strategy generally assumes that we can predict how financial
markets will perform in the short-term which may be very difficult and will incur a disproportionately
higher amount of transaction costs compared to long-term trading. There are many factors that can
affect financial market performance in the short-term (such as short-term interest rate changes,
cyclical earnings announcements, etc.) but may have a smaller impact over longer periods of time.

**Short Sales** - Unlike a straightforward investment in stocks where you buy shares with the expectation that their price will increase so you can sell at a profit, in a "short sale" you borrow stocks from your

brokerage firm and sell them immediately, hoping to buy them later at a lower price. Thus, a short seller hopes that the price of a stock will go down in the near future. A short seller thus uses declines in the market to his advantage. The short seller makes money when the stock prices fall and loses when prices go up. The SEC has strict regulations in place regarding short selling.

• **Risk:** Short selling is very risky. A short seller will profit if the stock goes down in price, but if the price of the shares increase, the potential losses are unlimited. There is no ceiling on how much a short seller can lose in a trade. The share price may keep going up and the short seller will have to pay whatever the prevailing stock price is to buy back the shares. However, gains have a ceiling level because the stock price cannot fall below zero. A short seller has to undertake to pay the earnings on the borrowed securities as long as the short seller chooses to keep the short position open. If the company declares huge dividends or issues bonus shares, the short seller will have to pay that amount to the lender. Any such occurrence can skew the entire short investment and make it unprofitable. The broker can use the funds in the short seller's margin account to buy back the loaned shares or issue a "call away" to get the short seller to return the borrowed securities. If the broker makes this call when the stock price is much higher than the price at the time of the short sale, then the investor can end up taking huge losses.

**Margin Transactions** - a securities transaction in which an investor borrows money to purchase a security, in which case the security serves as collateral on the loan.

• **Risk:** If the value of the shares drops sufficiently, the investor will be required to either deposit more cash into the account or sell a portion of the stock in order to maintain the margin requirements of the account. This is known as a "margin call." An investor's overall risk includes the amount of money invested plus the amount that was loaned to them.

**Option Writing** - a securities transaction that involves selling an option. An option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular security at a specified price before the expiration date of the option. When an investor sells an option, he or she must deliver to the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. For puts, the seller must purchase from the buyer a specified number of shares if the buyer exercises the option. The buyer pays the seller a premium (the market price of the option at a particular time) in exchange for writing the option.

• **Risk:** Options are complex investments and can be very risky, especially if the investor does not own the underlying stock. In certain situations, an investor's risk can be unlimited.

Our investment strategies and advice will vary depending upon each Client's specific financial situation. As such, we determine investments and allocations based upon your predefined objectives, risk tolerance, time horizon, financial information, liquidity needs and other various suitability factors. Additionally, your restrictions and guidelines affect the composition of your portfolio. It is important that you notify us immediately with respect to any material changes to your financial circumstances, including for example, a change in your current or expected income level, tax circumstances, or employment status.

We will not perform quantitative or qualitative analysis of individual securities. Instead, we will advise you on how to allocate your assets among various classes of securities or third-party money managers. We primarily rely on investment model portfolios and strategies developed by the third-party money managers and their portfolio managers. We may replace/recommend replacing a third-party money manager if there is a significant deviation in characteristics or performance from the stated strategy and/or benchmark.

## **Tax Considerations**

Our strategies and investments can have unique and significant tax implications. However, unless we specifically agree otherwise, and in writing, tax efficiency is not our primary consideration in the management of your assets. Regardless of your account size or any other factors, we strongly recommend that you consult with a tax professional regarding the investing of your assets.

Moreover, custodians and broker-dealers must report the cost basis of equities acquired in Client accounts on or after January 1, 2011. Your custodian will default to the First-In First-Out ("FIFO") accounting method for calculating the cost basis of your investments. You are responsible for contacting your tax advisor to determine if this accounting method is the right choice for you. If your tax advisor believes another accounting method is more advantageous, provide written notice to our firm immediately and we will alert your account custodian of your individually selected accounting method.

Decisions about cost basis accounting methods will need to be made before trades settle, as the cost basis method cannot be changed after settlement.

#### Risk of Loss

Investing in securities involves risk of loss that you should be prepared to bear. We do not represent or guarantee that our services or methods of analysis can or will predict future results, successfully identify market tops or bottoms, or insulate Clients from losses due to market corrections or declines.

We cannot offer any guarantees or promises that your financial goals and objectives will be met. Past performance is in no way an indication of future performance. All investment programs have certain risks that are borne by the investor. Investors face the following investment risks:

Interest-rate Risk: Fluctuations in interest rates may cause investment prices to fluctuate. For example, when interest rates rise, yields on existing bonds become less attractive, causing their market values to decline.

Market Risk: The price of a security, bond, or mutual fund may drop in reaction to tangible and intangible events and conditions. This type of risk is caused by external factors independent of a security's particular underlying circumstances. For example, political, economic, and social conditions may trigger market events.

Inflation Risk: This type of risk is the chance that future cash from an investment will not be worth as much due to inflation. Inflation is the increase in the price of goods and services, which causes purchasing power to erode.

Currency Risk: Overseas investments are subject to fluctuations in the value of the dollar against the currency of the investment's originating country. This is also referred to as exchange rate risk.

Reinvestment Risk: This is the risk that future proceeds from investments may 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 than an electric company, which generates its income from a steady stream of customers who buy electricity no matter what the economic environment is like.

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

## **Recommendation of Particular Types of Securities**

We recommend various types of securities and we do not primarily recommend one particular type of security over another since each client has different needs and different tolerance for risk. Each type of security has its own unique set of risks associated with it and it would not be possible to list here all of the specific risks of every type of investment. Even within the same type of investment, risks can vary widely. However, in very general terms, the higher the anticipated return of an investment, the higher the risk of loss associated with the investment. A description of the types of securities we may recommend to you and some of their inherent risks are provided below.

Money Market Funds: A money market fund is technically a security. The fund managers attempt to keep the share price constant at \$1/share. However, there is no guarantee that the share price will stay at \$1/share. If the share price goes down, you can lose some or all of your principal. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") notes that "While investor losses in money market funds have been rare, they are possible." In return for this risk, you should earn a greater return on your cash than you would expect from a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") insured savings account (money market funds are not FDIC insured). Next, money market fund rates are variable. In other words, you do not know how much you will earn on your investment next month. The rate could go up or go down. If it goes up, that may result in a positive outcome. However, if it goes down and you earn less than you expected to earn, you may end up needing more cash. A final risk you are taking with money market funds has to do with inflation. Because money market funds are considered to be safer than other

investments like stocks, long-term average returns on money market funds tends to be less than long term average returns on riskier investments. Over long periods of time, inflation can eat away at your returns.

**Certificates of Deposit**: Certificates of deposit ("CD") are generally a safe type of investment since they are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Company ("FDIC") up to a certain amount. However, because the returns are generally low, there is risk that inflation outpaces the return of the CD. Certain CDs are traded in the marketplace and not purchased directly from a banking institution. In addition to trading risk, when CDs are purchased at a premium, the premium is not covered by the FDIC.

**Municipal Securities**: Municipal securities, while generally thought of as safe, can have significant risks associated with them including, but not limited to: the credit worthiness of the governmental entity that issues the bond; the stability of the revenue stream that is used to pay the interest to the bondholders; when the bond is due to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same amount of interest or yield to maturity.

**Bonds**: Corporate debt securities (or "bonds") are typically safer investments than equity securities, but their risk can also vary widely based on: the financial health of the issuer; the risk that the issuer might default; when the bond is set to mature; and, whether or not the bond can be "called" prior to maturity. When a bond is called, it may not be possible to replace it with a bond of equal character paying the same rate of return. Stocks: There are numerous ways of measuring the risk of equity securities (also known simply as "equities" or "stock"). In very broad terms, the value of a stock depends on the financial health of the company issuing it. However, stock prices can be affected by many other factors including, but not limited to the class of stock (for example, preferred or common); the health of the market sector of the issuing company; and, the overall health of the economy. In general, larger, better established companies ("large cap") tend to be safer than smaller start-up companies ("small cap") are but the mere size of an issuer is not, by itself, an indicator of the safety of the investment.

Mutual Funds and Exchange Traded Funds: Mutual funds and exchange traded funds ("ETF") are professionally managed collective investment systems that pool money from many investors and invest in stocks, bonds, short-term money market instruments, other mutual funds, other securities, or any combination thereof. The fund will have a manager that trades the fund's investments in accordance with the fund's investment objective. While mutual funds and ETFs generally provide diversification, risks can be significantly increased if the fund is concentrated in a particular sector of the market, primarily invests in small cap or speculative companies, uses leverage (i.e., borrows money) to a significant degree, or concentrates in a particular type of security (i.e., equities) rather than balancing the fund with different types of securities. ETFs differ from mutual funds since they can be bought and sold throughout the day like stock and their price can fluctuate throughout the day. The returns on mutual funds and ETFs can be reduced by the costs to manage the funds. Also, while some mutual funds are "no load" and charge no fee to buy into, or sell out of, the fund, other types of mutual funds do charge such fees which can also reduce returns. Mutual funds can also be "closed end" or "open end". So-called open end" mutual funds continue to allow in new investors indefinitely whereas "closed end" funds have a fixed number of shares to sell which can limit their availability to new investors. ETFs may have tracking error risks. For example, the ETF investment adviser may not be able to cause the ETF's performance to match that of its Underlying Index or other benchmark, which may negatively affect the ETF's performance. In addition, for leveraged and inverse ETFs that seek to track the performance of their Underlying Indices or benchmarks on a daily basis, mathematical compounding may prevent the ETF from correlating with performance of its benchmark. In addition, an ETF may not have investment exposure to all of the securities included in its Underlying Index, or its 17 weighting of investment exposure to such securities may vary from that of the Underlying Index. Some ETFs may invest in securities or financial instruments that are not included in the Underlying Index, but which are expected to yield similar performance.

**Commercial Paper**: Commercial paper ("CP") is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default. There is a less risk in asset based commercial paper (ABCP). The difference between ABCP and CP is that instead of being an unsecured promissory note representing an obligation of the issuing

company, ABCP is backed by securities. Therefore, the perceived quality of the ABCP depends on the underlying securities.

Real Estate Investment Trust: A real estate investment trust ("REIT") is a corporate entity which invests in real estate and/or engages in real estate financing. A REIT reduces or eliminates corporate income taxes. REITs can be publicly or privately held. Public REITs may be listed on public stock exchanges. REITs are required to declare 90% of their taxable income as dividends, but they actually pay dividends out of funds from operations, so cash flow has to be strong or the REIT must either dip into reserves, borrow to pay dividends, or distribute them in stock (which causes dilution). After 2012, the IRS stopped permitting stock dividends. Most REITs must refinance or erase large balloon debts periodically. The credit markets are no longer frozen, but banks are demanding, and getting, harsher terms to re-extend REIT debt. Some REITs may be forced to make secondary stock offerings to repay debt, which will lead to additional dilution of the stockholders. Fluctuations in the real estate market can affect the REIT's value and dividends

Limited Partnerships: A limited partnership is a financial affiliation that includes at least one general partner and a number of limited partners. The partnership invests in a venture, such as real estate development or oil exploration, for financial gain. The general partner has management authority and unlimited liability. The general partner runs the business and, in the event of bankruptcy, is responsible for all debts not paid or discharged. The limited partners have no management authority and their liability is limited to the amount of their capital commitment. Profits are divided between general and limited partners according to an arrangement formed at the creation of the partnership. The range of risks are dependent on the nature of the partnership and disclosed in the offering documents if privately placed. Publicly traded limited partnership have similar risk attributes to equities. However, like privately placed limited partnerships their tax treatment is under a different tax regime from equities. You should speak to your tax adviser in regard to their tax treatment.

**Private Placements**: A private placement (non-public offering) is an illiquid security sold to qualified investors and are not publicly traded nor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Risk: Private placements generally carry a higher degree of risk due to illiquidity. Most securities that are acquired in a private placement will be restricted securities and must be held for an extended amount of time and therefore cannot be sold easily. The range of risks are dependent on the nature of the partnership and are disclosed in the offering documents.

**Digital Assets**: Digital Assets generally refers to an asset that is issued and/or transferred using distributed ledger or blockchain technology, including, "virtual currencies" (also known as cryptocurrencies), "coins", and "tokens". We may invest client accounts in and/or advise clients on the purchase or sale of digital assets. This advice or investment may be in actual digital coins/tokens/currencies or via investment vehicles such as exchange traded funds (ETFs) or separately managed accounts (SMAs). The investment characteristics of Digital Assets generally differ from those of traditional securities and currencies. Digital Assets are not backed by a central bank or a national, international organization, any hard assets, human capital, or other form of credit and are relatively new to the market place. Rather, Digital Assets are market-based: a Digital Asset's value is 18 determined by (and fluctuates often, according to) supply and demand factors, its adoption in the traditional commerce channels, and/or the value that various market participants place on it through their mutual agreement or transactions. The lack of history to these types of investments entail certain unknown risks, are very speculative and are not appropriate for all investors.

Price Volatility of Digital Assets Risk: A principal risk in trading Digital Assets is the rapid fluctuation of market price. The value of client portfolios relates in part to the value of the Digital Assets held in the client portfolio, and fluctuations in the price of Digital Assets could adversely affect the value of a client's portfolio. There is no guarantee that a client will be able to achieve a better than average market price for Digital Assets or will purchase Digital Assets at the most favorable price available. The price of Digital Assets achieved by a client may be affected generally by a wide variety of complex factors such as supply and demand; availability and access to Digital Asset service providers (such as payment processors), exchanges, miners or other Digital Asset users and market participants; perceived or actual security vulnerability; and traditional risk factors including inflation levels; fiscal policy; interest rates; and political, natural and economic events.

Digital Asset Service Providers Risk: Service providers that support Digital Assets and the Digital Asset marketplace(s) may not be subject to the same regulatory and professional oversight as traditional securities service providers. Further, there is no assurance that the availability of and access to virtual currency service providers will not be negatively affected by government regulation or supply and demand of Digital Assets. Accordingly, companies or financial institutions that currently support virtual currency may not do so in the future.

Custody of Digital Assets Risk: Under the Advisers Act, SEC registered investment advisers are required to hold securities with "qualified custodians," among other requirements. Certain Digital Assets may be deemed to be securities. Many Digital Assets do not currently fall under the SEC definition of security and therefore many of the companies providing Digital Assets custodial services fall outside of the SEC's definition of "qualified custodian". Accordingly, clients seeking to purchase actual digital coins/tokens/currencies may need to use nonqualified custodians to hold all or a portion of their Digital Assets.

Government Oversight of Digital Assets Risk: Regulatory agencies and/or the constructs responsible for oversight of Digital Assets or a Digital Asset network may not be fully developed and subject to change. Regulators may adopt laws, regulations, policies or rules directly or indirectly affecting Digital Assets their treatment, transacting, custody, and valuation.

#### Asset Allocation

Rather than focusing primarily on securities selection, we attempt to identify an appropriate ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash suitable to the client's investment goals and risk tolerance.

A risk of asset allocation is that the client may not participate in sharp increases in a particular security, industry or market sector. Another risk is that the ratio of securities, fixed income, and cash will change over time due to stock and market movements and, if not corrected, will no longer be appropriate for the client's goals.

Risks for all forms of analysis. Our securities analysis methods rely on the assumption that the companies whose securities we purchase and sell, the rating agencies that review these securities, and other publicly available sources of information about these securities, are providing accurate and unbiased data. While we are alert to indications that data may be incorrect, there is always a risk that our analysis may be compromised by inaccurate or misleading information.

Adviser may recommend professionally managed investment products like low-cost mutual funds and exchange traded funds (ETFs). As with any investment, past performance is not a guarantee of future results. But costs often do affect investment performance. Adviser attempts to use low-cost products whenever possible, such as index funds and ETFs. Clients should always review and understand an investment's key literature such as a prospectus and annual report.

Adviser constructs portfolios based on different risk and return objectives which are reviewed with each client in order to identify the most appropriate portfolio. Adviser's investment strategy involves analyzing global market conditions to determine how best to allocate portfolios. In addition, Adviser conducts manager research in order to identify the most attractive and suitable securities. We take this approach by working with the client to understand their needs.

Adviser believes in the benefits of diversification through asset allocation. While diversification can help to lower a portfolio's overall volatility (significant price changes), investing always involves a risk of loss that clients should be prepared to bear. Adviser therefore attempts to balance reasonable levels of risk with reasonable levels of return to generate the capital necessary to meet client goals. Individual client risk tolerance and risk capacity are also key factors in the investment planning process.

## **Asset Allocations Not Static**

Depending on the asset allocation approach, and according to your investment needs, assets within your portfolio may periodically be rebalanced or reallocated as recommended by the investment strategy selected for your account. When market returns have caused asset allocations to extend beyond predetermined limits, your portfolio may be rebalanced back to an original target mix. As our economic

outlook evolves, assets within your portfolio may also be reallocated to capture opportunities or manage risk. Investments can go down in value. You can lose some, much or all your invested money. Do not invest money you cannot afford to lose.

# **Item 9: Disciplinary Information**

We are required to disclose the facts of any legal or disciplinary events that are material to a Client's evaluation of our advisory business or the integrity of our management. We do not have any required disclosures under this item.

# **Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

# Registrations with Broker-Dealer and Other Investment Adviser

As disclosed above, associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm can also be registered representatives of SPIS. Notwithstanding the fact that principals and associates of our firm can also be registered representatives of SPIS, we are solely responsible for advice rendered and/or services provided in accordance with this Brochure and the agreement entered into by you and our firm.

You are under no obligation to purchase or sell securities and/or insurance products through these related persons in their separate capacities as securities representatives of SPIS and/or insurance agencies. However, if you choose to implement a securities transaction through such individuals the broker/dealer used will be SPIS, and commissions will be earned in addition to any fees paid for advisory services. The commissions could be higher or lower at SPIS than at other broker-dealers.

## **Arrangements with Affiliated Entities**

We are affiliated with Steward Partners Global Advisory LLC ("SPGA"), a licensed insurance agency, through common control and ownership. Therefore, associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed as insurance agents. These associates will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to you. Insurance commissions earned by these associates are separate from our advisory fees. Please see the "Fees and Compensation" section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by insurance agents who are affiliated with our firm.

Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA") and Elan Wealth Management, LLC ("EWM") (collectively referred to as "Affiliated Advisers") are SEC registered investment advisers and affiliates of Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("SPIS"), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer. SPIS and Affiliated Advisers are under the same parent company, Steward Partners Holdings, LLC ("SPH"). SPIA and Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC ("SPGA"), also a wholly owned subsidiary of SPH, and its Affiliated Advisers are affiliates and separately operated. SPGA provides corporate and related services to SPIS and its Affiliated Advisers.

## **Recommendation of Other Advisers**

We can recommend that you use a third-party money manager ("TPMM") based on your needs and suitability. We will receive compensation from the TPMM for recommending that you use their services. These compensation arrangements present a conflict of interest because we have a financial incentive to recommend the services of the third-party adviser. You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any TPMM we recommend. We do not have any other business relationships with the recommended TPMM(s). Refer to the *Advisory Business* section above for additional disclosures on this topic.

# Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

# **Description of Our Code of Ethics**

SPIA has adopted an Investment Adviser Code of Ethics (the "Code") and all IARs and "access persons" (as defined under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended (the "Advisers Act")) are required to understand and follow its provisions. Our Code includes guidelines for professional standards of conduct for associates of our firm. Our goal is to protect your interests at all times and to demonstrate

our commitment to our fiduciary duties of honesty, good faith, and fair dealing with you. All associates of our firm are expected to adhere strictly to these guidelines. Our associates are also required to report any violations of our Code of Ethics. Additionally, we maintain and enforce written policies reasonably designed to prevent the misuse or dissemination of material, non-public information about you or your account holdings by associates with our firm. Clients or prospective Clients can request a copy of our Code of Ethics by contacting us at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

## **Participation or Interest in Client Transactions**

Neither our firm nor any persons associated with our firm has any material financial interest in Client transactions beyond the provision of investment advisory services as disclosed in this brochure.

## **Personal Trading Practices**

Our firm or associates of our firm may buy or sell the same securities that we recommend to you or securities in which you are already invested. A conflict of interest exists in such cases because we have the ability to trade ahead of you and potentially receive more favorable prices than you will receive. To mitigate this conflict of interest, it is our policy that neither our firm nor our associates shall have priority over your account in the purchase or sale of securities.

# **Item 12: Brokerage Practices**

We recommend the brokerage services of our affiliated entity Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC (SPIS). SPIS is a securities broker-dealer and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. Advisory accounts are custodied with Raymond James & Associates (RJA), a third-party custodian, where SPIS acts in its capacity as an introducing broker-dealer. SPIS acting as a broker-dealer is material to our advisory business because this results in additional forms of compensation to SPIS which are discussed in more detail in this brochure.

It is possible that you will pay higher commissions and/or trading costs than those that are available elsewhere. Refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section above for additional disclosures on this topic.

## **Raymond James & Associates Clearing Relationship**

Raymond James & Associates is the clearing firm for Steward Partners Investments Solutions' brokerage business and is a custodial option for its accounts ("Custodian"). RJA offers their broker-dealer clients substantial financial strength and stability, economies of scale, and reliable, state-of-the-art technology. We believe that RJA provides quality execution services for you at competitive prices. As part of this business relationship, SPIS, as broker/dealer, pays RJA various execution and clearing charges and fees in connection with RJA maintaining custody and effecting the purchase and sale of securities for our clients.

For all advisory services programs, our Firm requires that Clients establish brokerage accounts with a designated Custodian. Steward Partners Investments Solutions is also an introducing broker-dealer that provides brokerage services for advisory accounts. During the Account opening process, a Client requests that our Firm open a custodial account for the Client with our Custodian.

Please Note: Clients are reminded that they are not under any obligation to custody securities at RJA or purchase securities commission products through SPIS and/or SPIA's IARs, and that they are able to purchase such securities commission products through other, non-affiliated broker-dealers or registered representatives. SPIA has systems in place to review IAR-managed accounts for suitability and best execution practices over the course of the advisory relationship.

RJA has a revenue-sharing arrangement with our affiliated broker-dealer SPIS. According to the terms of the agreement, RJA agrees to pay SPIS a portion of the interest earned on margin debit balances and securities-based lending loan balances in advisory accounts at SPIA. This is a conflict of interest at the firm level since the firm (SPIA) has an incentive to establish margin and/or securities-based loans to earn additional revenue. This conflict is mitigated by disclosing it to you in addition to the fact that SPIA IARs do not receive or otherwise directly share in the interest payments received by SPIA from RJA.

Also, as part of the revenue sharing arrangement, RJA agrees to pay SPIS a portion of the interest earned on credit and cash sweep balances in advisory accounts. Payments from RJA to SPIS are substantial.

This is a conflict of interest at the firm level since the firm (SPIA) has an incentive to have Clients maintain assets in one of the available cash sweep vehicles. In addition to disclosing, it to you, this conflict is further mitigated by the controls around billing on cash balances (see Item 4 for additional information).

SPIS' receipt of these and other revenue streams through its clearing relationship with RJA supports and defrays the costs SPIS has related to the ongoing operational and administrative maintenance of Client accounts and compensates SPIS for the various services it provides in its role as broker-dealer of record.

As part of this business relationship, SPIS, as broker/dealer, pays RJA for various execution and clearing services in connection with RJA, maintaining custody and effecting the purchase and sale of securities for our clients ("Custody Fee"). RJA imposes its Custody Fee based on assets. The Custody Fee decreases based on certain asset thresholds. Under this arrangement, SPIS and its affiliates have a financial incentive to retain assets with RJA to minimize costs.

#### **Research and Other Soft Dollar Benefits**

We do not have any soft dollar arrangements with any broker-dealer or custodian.

#### **Economic Benefits**

As a registered investment adviser, SPIA has access to the institutional platform of your account custodian. As such, we will also have access to research products and services from your account custodian and/or other brokerage firms. These products may include financial publications, information about particular companies and industries, research software, and other products or services that provide lawful and appropriate assistance to our firm in the performance of our investment decision-making responsibilities. Such research products and services are provided to all investment advisers that utilize the institutional services platforms of these firms and are not considered to be paid for with soft dollars. However, you should be aware that the commissions charged by a particular broker for a particular transaction or set of transactions can be greater than the amounts another broker who did not provide research services or products might charge.

## **Brokerage for Client Referrals**

We do not receive Client referrals from broker-dealers in exchange for cash or other compensation, such as brokerage services or research.

## **Directed Brokerage**

We routinely require that you direct our firm to execute transactions through SPIS. As such, we are not always able to achieve the most favorable execution of your transactions and you can pay higher brokerage commissions than you would otherwise pay through another broker-dealer that offers the same types of services. Not all advisers require their Clients to direct brokerage.

Associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm who are registered representatives of SPIS will recommend SPIS to you for brokerage services. These individuals are subject to applicable rules that restrict them from conducting securities transactions away from SPIS unless SPIS provides the representative with written authorization to do so. Therefore, these individuals are generally limited to conducting securities transactions through SPIS. It can be the case that SPIS charges higher transactions costs than another broker charges for the same types of services. If transactions are executed though SPIS, these individuals (in their separate capacities as registered representatives of SPIS) will earn commission-based compensation as a result of placing the recommended securities transactions through SPIS. This practice presents a conflict of interest because these registered representatives have an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on your needs. You are able to utilize the broker-dealer of your choice and have no obligation to purchase or sell securities through SPIS as we recommend. See the Fees and Compensation section in this brochure for more information on the compensation received by registered representatives who are affiliated with our firm.

#### **Block Trades**

We combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for discretionary advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). We will then distribute a portion of the shares to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner. In certain cases, each participating account pays an average price per share for all transactions. In the event an order is only

partially filled, the shares will be allocated to participating accounts in a fair and equitable manner, typically in proportion to the size of each Client's order.

Accounts owned by our firm or associates of our firm are permitted to participate in block trading with your accounts; however, they will not be given preferential treatment.

We do not block trade for non-discretionary accounts. Accordingly, non-discretionary accounts can pay different costs than discretionary accounts pay. If you enter into a non-discretionary arrangement with our firm, we may not be able to buy and sell the same quantities of securities for you and you can pay higher commissions, fees, and/or transaction costs than Clients who enter into discretionary arrangements with our firm.

## **Item 13: Review of Accounts**

Your IAR will monitor your account on an ongoing basis to identify situations that warrant specific actions be taken or recommended with respect to your investments or overall investment portfolio. Such reviews include, but are not limited to: suitability, performance, asset allocation, change in investment objectives and risk tolerance, and concentrations. In addition, your IAR will provide regular investment advice or investment supervisory services, review your portfolio(s) and communicate with you at least annually, for conformity with the respective portfolios, investment objectives, changes in your financial situation, account performance and any reasonable restrictions to be imposed as to the specific assets or types of securities to be included or excluded from your portfolio(s).

Additional monitoring of accounts is executed by our supervisory personnel located within various offices of our firm. These reviews are conducted on an ongoing and as needed basis and at a minimum are done annually and are designed to ensure that the advisory services provided to you are consistent with your investment needs and objectives.

The individuals conducting reviews will vary from time to time, as personnel join or leave our firm. We will not provide you with additional or regular written reports. You will receive trade confirmations and monthly or quarterly statements from your account custodian(s).

# **Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

As disclosed under the *Fees and Compensation* section in this brochure, associates providing investment advice on behalf of our firm may be licensed insurance agents and are registered representatives with SPIS. For information on the conflicts of interest this presents, and how we address these conflicts, refer to the *Fees and Compensation* section.

Refer to the *Brokerage Practices* section above for benefits we are able to receive resulting from our relationship with your account custodian.

We directly compensate non-employee (outside) consultants, individuals, and/or entities (Promoters) for Client referrals. In order to receive a cash referral fee from our firm, Promoters must comply with the requirements of the jurisdictions in which they operate. If you were referred to our firm by a Promoter, you should have received the Promoter's disclosure statement at the time of the referral. If you become a Client, the Promoter that referred you to our firm will receive a percentage of the advisory fee you pay our firm for as long as you are a Client with our firm, or until such time as our agreement with the Promoter expires. You will not pay additional fees because of this referral arrangement. Referral fees paid to a Promoter are contingent upon your entering into an advisory agreement with our firm. Therefore, a Promoter has a financial incentive to recommend our firm to you for advisory services. This creates a conflict of interest, which we mitigate by disclosing it to you. However, you are not obligated to retain our firm for advisory services. Comparable services and/or lower fees can be available through other firms.

Promoters that refer business to more than one investment adviser may have a financial incentive to recommend advisers with more favorable compensation arrangements. We request that our Promoters disclose to you whether multiple referral relationships exist and that comparable services may be available from other advisers for lower fees and/or where the Promoter's compensation is less favorable.

#### **Transition Loans**

Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC, an affiliate of SPIA and SPIS, may provide loans, bonus

payments and production awards to certain SPIA IARs. SPIA's IARs may receive the proceeds of a loan based on their respective trailing 12 months' revenue, generally, upon joining SPIA as an IAR. These compensation arrangements and the restrictive terms and conditions of the loans and any bonus payments incentivize SPIA IARs to remain, and retain Client assets, at SPIA.

## **Strategic Partners**

In addition to commissions or asset-based fees, the firm, receives compensation ("marketing support") from the below categories:

- Packaged Products: certain mutual funds, exchange traded funds (ETFs), variable insurance products, fixed insurance products, direct participation programs, alternative investments, and unit investment trusts (UITs)
- Third-Party Managers: certain third-party money managers offered through accounts custodied away from the Broker-Dealer

The above categories are hereinafter referred to as ("Strategic Partner" or "Strategic Partners"). Strategic Partners are selected, in part, based on the competitiveness of their products, their technology, their customer service and their training capabilities. Strategic Partners have more opportunities than other companies to market and educate our Advisory Representatives on investments and the products they offer. Marketing support payments are typically calculated as a fixed fee. Strategic Partners pay Steward Partners and/or its affiliates, differing amounts of marketing support payments, for which the Strategic Partner receives various benefits. You do not pay more to purchase Strategic Partner investment products through Steward Partners than you would pay to purchase non-partner products or those partner products through another broker- dealer. Additionally, marketing support payments received by our firm and/or its affiliates are not paid to or directed to your Advisory Representative. Nevertheless, a conflict of interest exists, in that your Advisory Representative indirectly benefits from Strategic Partner payments when the money is used to support the costs of product review, marketing or training. This conflict of interest is mitigated by the fact that your Advisory Representative does not receive any additional compensation for selling Strategic Partner products, and that the firm maintains policies and procedures to ensure recommendations are in your best interest.

Our firm will update information regarding Strategic Partners who participate in marketing support arrangements with Steward Partners and/or its affiliates on its website on a regular basis.

For additional information, including specifics on the marketing support amounts, please refer to our Indirect Compensation Disclosure located at <a href="https://www.stewardpartners.com/files/118678/indirect-compensation-disclosure%201-1-2024.pdf">https://www.stewardpartners.com/files/118678/indirect-compensation-disclosure%201-1-2024.pdf</a>.

From time to time, our firm and/or its affiliates also receives marketing support payments from companies that are not Strategic Partners, generally to cover meetings expenses.

# Item 15: Custody

As paying agent for our firm, your independent custodian will directly debit your account(s) for the payment of our advisory fees. This ability to deduct our advisory fees from your accounts causes our firm to exercise limited custody over your funds or securities. We do not have physical custody of any of your funds and/or securities. Your funds and securities will be held with a bank, broker-dealer, or other qualified custodian. You will receive account statements from the qualified custodian(s) holding your funds and securities at least quarterly. The account statements from your custodian(s) will indicate the amount of our advisory fees deducted from your account(s) each billing period. You should carefully review account statements for accuracy.

Additionally, we also allow clients to grant authority to their IARs to initiate transfers of funds and securities on the client's behalf, including transfers to third parties, through standing written authorizations or instructions. The SEC has determined that this capability is considered "custody" under Investment Advisers Act rules.

If you have a question regarding your account statement, or if you do not receive a statement from your custodian, contact us immediately at the telephone number on the cover page of this brochure.

#### **Trustee Services**

Associates of our firm are allowed to serve as trustees to certain accounts for which we also provide investment advisory services. In all cases, the persons associated with our firm have been appointed

trustee as a result of a family or personal relationship with the trust grantor and/or beneficiary and not as a result of employment with our firm. Therefore, we are not deemed to have custody over the advisory accounts for which associates of our firm serve as trustee.

## **Item 16: Investment Discretion**

Clients must grant SPIA the authority to exercise discretion on their behalf. Before we can buy or sell securities on your behalf, you must first sign a discretionary management agreement. By granting discretionary authority, you authorize us to implement our investment recommendations directly within your account, including the right to determine:

- Which securities to buy and sell for your account
- When to buy and sell securities for your account
- The amount of securities to buy and sell for your account and
- The third party money managers to be engaged for management of your assets all without obtaining your consent or approval for each transaction

You are able to specify investment objectives, guidelines, and/or impose certain conditions or investment parameters for your account(s). For example, you can specify that the investment in any particular stock or industry should not exceed specified percentages of the value of the portfolio and/or impose restrictions or prohibitions of transactions in the securities of a specific industry or security.

## **Non-Discretionary**

If you do not enter into a discretionary arrangement with our firm, we will obtain your approval prior to the execution of any transactions for your account(s). You have an unrestricted right to decline to implement any advice provided by our firm on a non-discretionary basis.

If we are unable to reach you or you are slow to respond to our request, this delay can have an adverse impact on the timing of your trade implementation and we may not achieve the same execution price.

# **Item 17: Voting Client Securities**

We will not vote proxies on behalf of your advisory accounts. At your request, we will offer you advice regarding corporate actions and the exercise of your proxy voting rights. If you own shares of applicable securities, you are responsible for exercising your right to vote as a shareholder.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward any electronic solicitations to vote proxies.

# **Item 18: Financial Information**

Our firm does not have any financial condition or impairment that would prevent us from meeting our contractual commitments to you. We have not filed a bankruptcy petition at any time in the past ten years nor do we take physical custody of Client funds or securities, nor serve as trustee or signatory for Client accounts, and we do not require the prepayment of more than \$1,200 in fees six or more months in advance. Therefore, we are not required to include a financial statement with this brochure.

# **Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers**

We are a federally registered investment adviser; therefore, we are not required to respond to this item.

# **Item 20: Additional Information (Privacy Policy)**

## **Privacy Policy**

Securities and investment advisory services offered through Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC ("SPIS"), registered broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC, and SEC registered investment adviser. Investment Advisory Services may also be offered through Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC ("SPIA"), an SEC registered investment adviser. Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC, Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC, and Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC are affiliates,

separately operated and subsidiaries of parent company, Steward Partners Holdings, LLC (collectively "Steward Partners", the "Firm", we, or us).

Steward Partners considers the privacy of its customers to be of fundamental importance and has established a policy to securely maintain the information shared with the Firm. Except as described in this policy, we do not disclose customer personal information to third parties. Third party disclosures may include sharing information with non-affiliated companies that perform account support services or facilitate customer transactions with Steward Partners. Non-affiliate services can include providing professional, legal, or accounting advice. Use of customer information provided by the Firm to Non-affiliated companies is limited. Non-affiliates cannot use customer information beyond the purpose required and defined by Steward Partners. Additionally, all Non-affiliated companies must maintain the confidentiality of information provided. Upon request from Steward Partners, Non-affiliated companies must return or destroy all confidential information received.

Upon receipt of the customer's expressed consent, the Firm may also disclose their personal information for the purpose of fulfilling customer instructions. Finally, under limited circumstances, personal information may be disclosed to third parties as permitted by, or to comply with, applicable laws and regulations; for instance, when responding to a subpoena or similar legal process, to protect against fraud and to otherwise cooperate with law enforcement or regulatory authorities or with organizations such as exchanges and clearinghouses.

You should know that Steward Partners will not sell your personal information.

Steward Partners restricts access to your nonpublic personal information to authorized employees. Steward Partners maintains physical, electronic and procedural safeguards to guard nonpublic personal information.

As described in this Policy, the Firm will from time to time share personal information with affiliated companies. If you would like more information about the Firm's Privacy Policy, please write to:

Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC Attn: Compliance Dept. 15495 SW Sequoia Parkway, Suite #150 Portland, OR 97224

Or call (844) 801-8268 and ask to speak with the Compliance Department. Please see the following pages for further information regarding the Privacy Policy.



4/1/2023

FACTS	WHAT DOES STEWARD PARTNERS HOLDINGS, LLC DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?
Why?	Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.
What?	The types of personal information we collect, and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:  Social Security number and income  account balances and transaction history  investment history and portfolio values When you are no longer our customer, we continue to share your information as described in this notice.
How?	All financial companies need to share customers' personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers' personal information; the reasons Steward Partners Holdings, LLC chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.

Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Steward Partners Share?	Can You Limit This Sharing?
<b>For our everyday business purposes</b> – such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	Yes	No
For our marketing purposes – to offer our products and services to you	No	No
For joint marketing with other financial companies	No	No
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes – information about your transactions and experiences	Yes	No
For our affiliates' everyday business purposes - information about your creditworthiness	No	No
For our affiliates to market to you	No	N/A
For non-affiliates to market to you	No	N/A
For advisors who leave Steward Partners—if you have a Steward Partners advisor servicing your account(s) who leaves Steward Partners to join another financial institution, the advisor may retain copies of your personal information so that they can continue to serve you at the new firm. In doing so, your advisor may share your information with the new firm but is otherwise required to keep confidential the personal information obtained from you while the advisor was affiliated with Steward Partners, and they may use it only to service your account(s). Please note: Certain states require affirmative consent to allow sharing. See below for more on your rights under state law.	Yes	Yes
Questions Call (844) 801-8268 or go to www.ste	wardpartners.com	·

Who we are?	
Who is providing this notice?	Steward Partners Holdings, LLC and its family of companies: Steward Partners Investment Solutions, LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC
What we do?	
How does Steward Partners Holdings protect my personal information?	To protect personal information from unauthorized access and use, the Firm uses security measures that comply with Federal law. These measures include cybersecurity, physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards along with secured access to Firm facilities. Steward Partners assesses current risks to design specific safeguards that protect customer information and have processes in place to deal with information security incidents if they occur.
How does Steward Partners Holdings collect my personal information?	<ul> <li>Steward Partners collects personal information, for example, when customers:</li> <li>open an account or perform transactions</li> <li>pay for securities transactions or request money be sent</li> <li>write a check or use a debit card</li> <li>The Firm also collects personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</li> </ul>
Why can't I limit all	Federal law gives customers the right to limit only:
sharing?	<ul> <li>sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes—information concerning creditworthiness</li> <li>affiliates from using personal information for marketing</li> <li>sharing for non-affiliates to conduct marketing campaigns</li> <li>State laws and individual companies may limit sharing further.</li> </ul>
What happens when I limit sharing for an account I hold jointly with someone else?	Limit sharing choices will apply to everyone on an account.
Definitions	
Affiliates	Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.  • Steward Partners affiliate(s) include companies with a common corporate identity of Steward Partners Holdings, LLC, such as Steward Partners Global Advisory, LLC, Steward Partners Investments Solutions, LLC and Steward Partners Investment Advisory, LLC.
Non-affiliates	Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.  • Steward Partners Holdings, LLC does not share with non-affiliates for the purposes of marketing.
Joint marketing	A formal agreement between nonaffiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to customers.  • Steward Partners Holdings, LLC does not allow this activity.

# Other important information

Customers may have other privacy protections under applicable state laws including those for California and Nevada residents. To the extent the state laws apply, we will comply with them when we share information about you, and in some cases may be limited by the customer.

**Vermont:** In accordance with Vermont law, the Firm will not disclose information about creditworthiness to affiliates and will not disclose personal information, financial information, credit report, or health information to nonaffiliated third parties for marketing purposes, other than as permitted by Vermont law, unless expressly authorized by the customer to make those disclosures. Additional information concerning the Firm's Privacy Policies can be found at <a href="www.stewardpartners.com">www.stewardpartners.com</a> or call (844) 801-8268.

**California Residents:** In accordance with California law, the Firm will not share information collected about customers with companies outside of Steward Partners Holdings, LLC, unless the law allows. For example, Steward Partners may share information with customer consent, to service customer accounts. The Firm will limit sharing among our companies to the extent required by California law. For additional information regarding customer rights, please refer to the privacy notice for California residents.

**Nevada Residents:** Pursuant to Nevada law, the Firm is providing this notice, which applies to accounts with Nevada mailing addresses, to inform customers that they may elect to be placed on the Firm's internal "do not call" list. If you would like to be placed on the list, please let Steward Partners know by simply calling us at (844) 801-8268 Customers may also contact the Bureau of Consumer Protection, Office of the Nevada Attorney General, 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 486-3132 Email BCPINFO@ag.state.nv.us.