

US STERLING FORM CRS RELATIONSHIP SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

US Sterling Securities is registered with the Securities & Exchange Commission as a broker-dealer that provides brokerage accounts and services. The firm is registered with FINRA, SIPC and MSRB. Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ; it is important for you to understand the differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at: www.investor.gov/CRS which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

2. WHAT INVESTMENT SERVICES AND ADVICE CAN YOU PROVIDE ME?

- The brokerage services we provide include buying and selling securities and recommending investments to retail investors. The firm provides Fixed Income products and Institutional level Investment Banking services. Costs may vary significantly depending on the service provided
- We have requirements for opening an account, including Minimum account size is 100,000 however this may change to a more significant amount depending on the character of your account.
- We can offer you additional services to assist you in developing and executing your investment strategy and monitoring the performance of your account. We are not required to monitor your portfolio or investments on an ongoing basis unless agreed to in advance. .

Questions to ask:

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

3. FEES, COSTS, CONFLICTS, AND STANDARD OF CONDUCT

3A. What Fees Will I Pay?

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

- The fee you pay is based on the specific transaction and not on the value of your account.
- With stocks or exchange-traded funds, or Fixed Income the fee is usually a separate commission. With other investments, such as bonds, this fee may be part of the price you pay for the investment (called a mark-up or mark-down). With mutual funds, a fee typically called a load reduces the value of your investment. Mutual funds also charge annual management fees which vary depending on the fund. With certain investments such as variable annuities, you may have to pay fees such as surrender charges to sell the investment, reducing the value of your investment.
- We may charge you additional fees such as custodian fees, account maintenance fees, and account inactivity fees.
- The more transactions in your account, the more fees we will charge you. We therefore have an incentive to encourage you to engage in transactions subject to your suitability and risk tolerance.
- You may find further information at: <https://www.hilltopsecurities.com/fixed-income-capital-markets/>

Questions to ask:

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

3B. What are your legal obligations to me when providing recommendations? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we provide you with a recommendation, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interest ahead of yours. At the same time, the way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the recommendations we provide you. Here are some examples to help you understand what this means. Interbank Transactions through our parent company may cost less than securities transactions (DTC) or vis-a-versa this is an intrinsic conflict in terms of cost.

- Proprietary products are investments that are issued, sponsored, or managed by our firm or our affiliates. We and our affiliates make money on proprietary products which may be similar to non-proprietary products which may cost less.
- We may buy and sell your investment through our own accounts (called “acting as principal”) and we can earn a profit on these trades.
- We can make extra money by selling you certain investments either because they are managed by someone related to our firm or because they are offered by companies that pay our firm to sell their investments. Your financial professional also receives more money if you buy these investments.
- You may find further information at: www.ussterlingsecurities.com

Questions to ask:

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

3C. How do your financial professionals make money?

- Our licensed and registered professional are compensated with commission on transaction built in as a markup if you are buying and a markdown if you are selling on principal transactions with us. You may also pay a commission on an agency basis. These are direct cash compensation and there is no noncash compensation to our professionals. On Investment Banking transactions fee(s) include placement fees subject to contract on a case by case basis, due diligence fees, business advisory fees and/or fees on a contract basis for valuations or structuring finance among other Investment Banking activities.
- Compensation is provided to our professional based upon the type of service and the offering on a case by case basis. On CD related products

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

Yes. Visit www.investor.gov/CRS for a free and simple search tool to research us and our financial professionals. For additional information about our brokers and services, visit <https://brokercheck.finra.org/>, our web site www.ussterlingsecurities.com and refer to your account agreement. The firm has no disciplinary actions listed on it record as of the date of this disclosure.

Questions to ask:

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

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- You may find additional information about our brokerage services at our website www.ussterlingsecurities.com.
- You may request a copy of the Form CRS Relationship Summary by contacting your investment professional or our back office at administration@ussterling.com. You may also call 800-935-9300 for a copy or to request up-to-date information.

Questions to ask:

Who is the primary contact person for my account? Is he or she a registered representative of a broker-dealer? If I have concerns about how this person is treating me, who can I talk to?