

MM Ascend Life Investor Services, LLC

Form CRS, also known as Form ADV Part 3, Customer Relationship Summary

Item 1 - Introduction

October 01, 2022

MM Ascend Life Investor Services, LLC (MMALIS) is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as a Broker-Dealer; and is a member of FINRA and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation. MMALIS is also registered as an investment adviser in Ohio and several other states.

Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ, and it is important for you to understand the differences. The SEC offers free and simple tools to research firms and financial professionals at Investor.gov/CRS which also provides information tailored to educate retail investors about financial professionals.

Item 2 - Relationships and Services

What investment services and advice can you provide me?

MMALIS provides investment advisory services to employer-sponsored 401k, 403(b), and 457 group retirement plans by selecting the investment menu offered to participants while also constructing five target-risk portfolios using the investment menu available in each plan.

Each retirement plan has granted discretionary authority to MMALIS to modify the investment menu available to participants, and to modify and periodically rebalance the target-risk portfolios. Based on this discretionary authority, MMALIS will initiate certain transactions in the participant accounts without requiring pre-approval from participants. In accordance with ERISA standards, MMALIS will provide advanced notice to participants in the retirement plans prior to modifying the investment menu.

☒ Retirement planning—MMALIS monitors the investments and the five target risk portfolios in a group retirement plan but does not monitor a participant's individual account. MMALIS serves as an investment advisor to plan sponsors but does not advise the individual participants of a plan.

☒ Other services: MMALIS serves as distributor for the registered annuity products issued by its affiliates MassMutual Ascend Life Insurance Company and Annuity Investors Life Insurance Company. Sales of those products are made through non-affiliated broker dealers. MMALIS does not monitor those accounts. MMALIS does not offer retail brokerage services.

For additional information including minimum investment amounts, please see <http://www.MassMutualAscend.com/MMALIS> or

<https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD/default.aspx> for our Form ADV Part 2A brochure, call to request at 513-361-9525, or email request at pnerone@mmascend.com.

Conversation starters. *Ask your financial professional:*

– *Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory service? Should I choose a brokerage service? Should I choose both types of services? Why or why not? How will you choose investments to recommend to me?*

– *What is your relevant experience, including your licenses, education and other qualifications? What do these qualifications mean?*

Item 3 - Fees, Costs, Conflicts and Standard of Conduct

What fees will I pay?

MMALIS negotiates fees separately with the employer-sponsors of the group retirement plans it serves. MMALIS fees are assessed quarterly, in arrears, following the close of each calendar quarter. MMALIS reports information to each employer-sponsor along with other service providers which is then compiled into a plan disclosure notice and made available to each participant of the plan in accordance with ERISA Rule 404a-5. MMALIS also includes general descriptions of its fees and services in its Form ADV Part 2A which can be found on our website. Some fees create a conflict of interest described below.

☒ If our firm charges asset-based fees, more assets in a participant account will cause the participant to pay more in fees and therefore MMALIS has an incentive to encourage participants to increase their contributions to the accounts.

There are other fees and costs related to the administration and servicing of the group retirement plans that MMALIS serves as an investment adviser. Other providers' charges may include asset-based fees expressed as Expense Ratios in the various investments, or Custodial fees. Other providers may charge a specific, periodic dollar amount for services such as record keeper fees or third-party administration. Plan participants may also pay transaction fees for processing various types of loans and withdrawals. These fees are described in detail in each plan's disclosure notice that it makes available to each participant in accordance with ERISA Rule 404a-5.

Additional Information:

Participants will pay fees and costs whether they make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money participants might earn on their investments over time. Participants should take time to make sure they understand what fees and costs they are paying.

For more detailed information about our fees and costs please review our Form ADV, Part 2A brochure (specifically Items 5.A., B., C., and D.) which can be found at

**<http://www.MassMutualAscend.com/MMALIS> or
<https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD/default.aspx>.**

Conversation starters. *Ask your financial professional:*

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

What are your legal obligations to me when providing recommendations as my broker-dealer or when acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When MMALIS act as an investment adviser to a group retirement plan, it must act in the best interest of the plan and its participants and not put our interest ahead of yours. The way MMALIS is paid may create some conflicts with participants' interests. Participants should understand and ask about these conflicts and how they might affect the recommendations and investment advice provided.

Here are some examples to help you understand what this means.

☒ Our firm makes money based on the cumulative asset value of your account. We do not make money from the investment products or their issuers. If an investment pays revenue share or 12b-1 fees, MMALIS will instruct that those payments be allocated to the plan participant accounts.

Conversation starters. *Ask your financial professional:*

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

Additional information:

For more detailed information about our fees and costs please review your retirement plan's disclosure notice, or our Form ADV Part 2A which can be found at <http://www.MassMutualAscend.com/MMALIS> or <https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov/IAPD/default.aspx>. You may call 513-361-9525 or email to pnerone@mmascend.com to request the items to be mailed to you without charge.

How do your financial professionals make money?

☒ Our associates are paid salary through our parent company.

Item 4 - Disciplinary History

Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?

Our firm has disciplinary history addressed in our Form ADV or Form BD. Visit Investor.gov/CRS for a free and simple search tool to research our firm and our financial professionals.

Conversation Starters. *Ask your financial professional:*

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

Item 5 - Additional Information

Conversation starters. *Ask your financial professional:*

– Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer?

- Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?

You can find additional information about our services and request a copy of the relationship summary by visiting <http://MassMutualAscend.com/MMALIS>; emailing to pnerone@mmascend.com or calling us at 513-361-9525.