

BrokerCheck Report

RICKY MILLS HIGGINS

CRD# 1726947

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When communicating online or investing with any professional, make sure you know who you're dealing with. [Imposters](#) might link to sites like BrokerCheck from [phishing](#) or similar scam websites, or through [social media](#), trying to steal your personal information or your money.

Please contact FINRA with any concerns.

About BrokerCheck®



BrokerCheck offers information on all current, and many former, registered securities brokers, and all current and former registered securities firms. FINRA strongly encourages investors to use BrokerCheck to check the background of securities brokers and brokerage firms before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

- **What is included in a BrokerCheck report?**

BrokerCheck reports for individual brokers include information such as employment history, professional qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards. BrokerCheck reports for brokerage firms include information on a firm's profile, history, and operations, as well as many of the same disclosure events mentioned above.

- Please note that the information contained in a BrokerCheck report may include pending actions or allegations that may be contested, unresolved or unproven. In the end, these actions or allegations may be resolved in favor of the broker or brokerage firm, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

- **Where did this information come from?**

- The information contained in BrokerCheck comes from FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD® and is a combination of:

- information FINRA and/or the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) require brokers and brokerage firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
- information that regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against firms or brokers.

- **How current is this information?**

- Generally, active brokerage firms and brokers are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in CRD within 30 days. Under most circumstances, information reported by brokerage firms, brokers and regulators is available in BrokerCheck the next business day.

- **What if I want to check the background of an investment adviser firm or investment adviser representative?**

- To check the background of an investment adviser firm or representative, you can search for the firm or individual in BrokerCheck. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) website at <https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>. In the alternative, you may search the IAPD website directly or contact your state securities regulator at <http://www.finra.org/Investors/ToolsCalculators/BrokerCheck/P455414>.

- **Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?**

- FINRA recommends that you learn as much as possible about an investment professional before deciding to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research brokers and investment adviser representatives doing business in your state.

Thank you for using FINRA BrokerCheck.



Using this site/information means that you accept the FINRA BrokerCheck Terms and Conditions. A complete list of Terms and Conditions can be found at brokercheck.finra.org



For additional information about the contents of this report, please refer to the User Guidance or www.finra.org/brokercheck. It provides a glossary of terms and a list of frequently asked questions, as well as additional resources. For more information about FINRA, visit www.finra.org.

RICKY M. HIGGINS

CRD# 1726947

Currently employed by and registered with the following Firm(s):**IA LPL FINANCIAL LLC**350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302
CRD# 6413

Registered with this firm since: 10/08/2024

B LPL FINANCIAL LLC350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302
CRD# 6413

Registered with this firm since: 10/08/2024

Report Summary for this Broker

This report summary provides an overview of the broker's professional background and conduct. Additional information can be found in the detailed report.

Broker Qualifications**This broker is registered with:**

- 1 Self-Regulatory Organization
- 7 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

- 0 Principal/Supervisory Exams
- 5 General Industry/Product Exams
- 2 State Securities Law Exams

Registration History**This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):****B FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC.**CRD# 32460
SPARTANBURG, SC
05/2016 - 10/2024**IA FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC.**CRD# 110377
LAKE ST. LOUIS, MO
05/2016 - 10/2024**IA INVESTMENT ADVISORS**CRD# 15708
BIRMINGHAM, AL
03/2012 - 06/2016**Disclosure Events**

All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.

Are there events disclosed about this broker? **Yes**

The following types of disclosures have been reported:

| Type | Count |
|------------------|-------|
| Regulatory Event | 1 |
| Termination | 1 |

Broker Qualifications



Registrations

This section provides the self-regulatory organizations (SROs) and U.S. states/territories the broker is currently registered and licensed with, the category of each license, and the date on which it became effective. This section also provides, for every brokerage firm with which the broker is currently employed, the address of each branch where the broker works.

This individual is currently registered with 1 SRO and is licensed in 7 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **LPL FINANCIAL LLC**

Main Office Address: **1055 LPL WAY
FORT MILL, SC 29715**

Firm CRD#: **6413**

| SRO | Category | Status | Date |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| B FINRA | Corporate Securities Represent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B FINRA | Direct Participation Programs | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B FINRA | General Securities Representative | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B FINRA | Invest. Co and Variable Contracts | Approved | 10/08/2024 |

| U.S. State/ Territory | Category | Status | Date |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| B Florida | Agent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B Georgia | Agent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B Nevada | Agent | Approved | 10/09/2024 |
| B North Carolina | Agent | Approved | 10/10/2024 |
| B South Carolina | Agent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| IA South Carolina | Investment Adviser Representative | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B Texas | Agent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| IA Texas | Investment Adviser Representative | Approved | 10/08/2024 |
| B Virginia | Agent | Approved | 10/08/2024 |

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

Branch Office Locations

LPL FINANCIAL LLC

350 EAST ST JOHN STREET
SPARTANBURG, SC 29302

Broker Qualifications



Industry Exams this Broker has Passed

This section includes all securities industry exams that the broker has passed. Under limited circumstances, a broker may attain a registration after receiving an exam waiver based on exams the broker has passed and/or qualifying work experience. Any exam waivers that the broker has received are not included below. A passed exam or exam waiver does not permit a broker to do business without an active SRO or state registration.

This individual has passed 0 principal/supervisory exams, 5 general industry/product exams, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|--------------------------|----------|------|
| No information reported. | | |

General Industry/Product Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|---|-----------|------------|
| B Securities Industry Essentials Examination | SIE | 10/01/2018 |
| B General Securities Representative Examination | Series 7 | 12/23/2013 |
| B Direct Participation Programs Representative Examination | Series 22 | 12/28/2012 |
| B Corporate Securities Limited Representative Examination | Series 62 | 02/01/2000 |
| B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination | Series 6 | 08/18/1987 |

State Securities Law Exams

| Exam | Category | Date |
|--|-----------|------------|
| IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination | Series 65 | 06/08/2017 |
| B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination | Series 63 | 10/16/1987 |

Additional information about the above exams or other exams FINRA administers to brokers and other securities professionals can be found at www.finra.org/brokerqualifications/registeredrep/.

Broker Qualifications



Professional Designations

This section details that the representative has reported **1** professional designation(s).

Chartered Financial Consultant

This representative holds or did hold **1** professional designation(s) that may have been used to qualify as an Investment Advisor representative. Please check with the appropriate designation authority for verification that the designation is still in effect. The contact information for these professional designation authorities can be found on the website for the North American Securities Administrators Association at <http://www.nasaa.org>

Registration and Employment History



Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following firms:

| Registration Dates | Firm Name | CRD# | Branch Location |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| B 05/2016 - 10/2024 | FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC. | 32460 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| IA 05/2016 - 10/2024 | FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC. | 110377 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| IA 03/2012 - 06/2016 | INVESTMENT ADVISORS | 15708 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| B 03/2012 - 06/2016 | PROEQUITIES, INC. | 15708 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| IA 12/2005 - 03/2012 | FIRST HEARTLAND CONSULTANTS, INC. | 110377 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| B 02/1999 - 03/2012 | FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL, INC. | 32460 | SPARTANBURG, SC |
| B 08/1987 - 02/1999 | PRUCO SECURITIES CORPORATION | 5685 | NEWARK, NJ |

Employment History

This section provides up to 10 years of an individual broker's employment history as reported by the individual broker on the most recently filed Form U4.

Please note that the broker is required to provide this information only while registered with FINRA or a national securities exchange and the information is not updated via Form U4 after the broker ceases to be registered. Therefore, an employment end date of "Present" may not reflect the broker's current employment status.

| Employment | Employer Name | Position | Investment Related | Employer Location |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10/2024 - Present | LPL FINANCIAL LLC | Registered Representative | Y | Spartanburg, SC, United States |
| 05/2016 - 10/2024 | FIRST HEARTLAND CAPITAL INC | REGISTERED REP | Y | LAKE ST LOUIS, MO, United States |
| 02/2012 - 05/2016 | PROEQUITIES, INC | REGISTERED REP | Y | SPARTANBURG, SC, United States |

Other Business Activities

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the broker regarding other business activities the broker is currently engaged in either as a proprietor, partner, officer, director, employee, trustee, agent or otherwise. This section does not include non-investment related activity that is exclusively charitable, civic, religious or fraternal and is recognized as tax exempt.

1-09/2024 / Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / Insurance Agency / Investment Related / 25 hrs mth / 5 hrs during trading / Spartanburg, SC / Start date: 01/01/1999

Registration and Employment History



Other Business Activities, continued

2-09/2024 / Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / Non-Variable Insurance / Investment Related / 25 hrs mth / 5 hrs during trading / Spartanburg, SC / Start date: 01/01/1999

3-09/2024 / RMH Financial Alchemy, Inc / Business Entity For Tax/Investment Purposes Only / Not Investment Related / Spartanburg, SC / Start date: 12/01/2008

4-09/2024 / Walker, Higgins and Associates Wealth Management, LLC / DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) / Investment Related / 180 hrs mth / 45 hrs during trading / At reported business location(s)

5-09/2024 / 350 Building Associates, LLC / Real Estate Rental / Investment Related / 2 hrs mth / 5 hrs during trading / Spartanburg, SC / Start date: 12/9/1996

6-09/2024 / RMH Property Holdings LLC / Other: Personal Real Estate Holding LLC / 1 hr mth / 5 hrs during trading / Not Investment Related / Spartanburg, SC / Start date: 05/14/2015

Disclosure Events



What you should know about reported disclosure events:

1. All individuals registered to sell securities or provide investment advice are required to disclose customer complaints and arbitrations, regulatory actions, employment terminations, bankruptcy filings, and criminal or civil judicial proceedings.
2. **Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to CRD, for example:**
 - o A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
 - o A customer dispute must involve allegations that a broker engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.
 - o
3. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
 - o As mentioned at the beginning of this report, information contained in BrokerCheck comes from brokers, brokerage firms and regulators. When more than one of these sources reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the BrokerCheck report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.
 - o
4. **There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:**
 - o A disclosure event may have a status of *pending*, *on appeal*, or *final*.
 - A "pending" event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
 - An event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
 - A "final" event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
 - o A final event generally has a disposition of *adjudicated*, *settled* or *otherwise resolved*.
 - An "adjudicated" matter includes a disposition by (1) a court of law in a criminal or civil matter, or (2) an administrative panel in an action brought by a regulator that is contested by the party charged with some alleged wrongdoing.
 - A "settled" matter generally involves an agreement by the parties to resolve the matter. Please note that brokers and brokerage firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory matters for business or other reasons.
 - A "resolved" matter usually involves no payment to the customer and no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the individual broker. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

For your convenience, below is a matrix of the number and status of disclosure events involving this broker. Further information regarding these events can be found in the subsequent pages of this report. You also may wish to contact the broker to obtain further information regarding these events.

| | Pending | Final | On Appeal |
|------------------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Regulatory Event | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Termination | N/A | 1 | N/A |



Disclosure Event Details

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that a disclosure event may be pending or involve allegations that are contested and have not been resolved or proven. The matter may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the broker, or concluded through a negotiated settlement for certain business reasons (e.g., to maintain customer relationships or to limit the litigation costs associated with disputing the allegations) with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to CRD and therefore some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided to CRD.

Regulatory - Final

This type of disclosure event may involve (1) a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, self-regulatory organization, federal regulatory such as the Securities and Exchange Commission, foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations; or (2) a revocation or suspension of a broker's authority to act as an attorney, accountant, or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 1

| | |
|--|--|
| Reporting Source: | Regulator |
| Regulatory Action Initiated By: | FINRA |
| Sanction(s) Sought: | Other: N/A |
| Date Initiated: | 02/22/2018 |
| Docket/Case Number: | 2016050244501 |
| Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: | ProEquities, Inc. |
| Product Type: | Mutual Fund |
| Allegations: | Without admitting or denying the findings, Higgins consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that he maintained customer-signed but otherwise blank forms for clients to submit to his member firm in connection with mutual fund exchanges. The findings stated that the pre-signed forms were completed and submitted to the firm following execution of the transactions. The firm did not require these forms be signed prior to the transactions and Higgins' actions were in violation of the firm's WSPs. |
| Current Status: | Final |
| Resolution: | Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC) |
| Does the order constitute a | No |



final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

Resolution Date: 02/22/2018

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Suspension

If the regulator is the SEC, CFTC, or an SRO, did the action result in a finding of a willful violation or failure to supervise?

(1) willfully violated any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or to have been unable to comply with any provision of such Act, rule or regulation?



(2) willfully aided, abetted, counseled, commanded, induced, or procured the violation by any person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board? or

(3) failed reasonably to supervise another person subject to your supervision, with a view to preventing the violation by such person of any provision of the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Commodity Exchange Act, or any rule or regulation under any of such Acts, or any of the rules of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board?

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: All Capacities

Duration: three months

Start Date: 03/19/2018

End Date: 06/18/2018

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1****Monetary Related Sanction:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)**Total Amount:** \$5,000.00**Portion Levied against individual:** \$5,000.00**Payment Plan:****Is Payment Plan Current:****Date Paid by individual:** 03/08/2018**Was any portion of penalty waived?** No**Amount Waived:****Regulator Statement** Fines paid in full on March 8, 2018.**Reporting Source:** Broker**Regulatory Action Initiated By:** FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY**Sanction(s) Sought:** Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Suspension**Date Initiated:** 02/22/2018**Docket/Case Number:** [2016050244501](#)**Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:** ProEquities, Inc.**Product Type:** Mutual Fund**Allegations:** Without admitting or denying the findings, Higgins consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that he maintained customer-signed, but otherwise blank forms for clients to submit to his member firm in connection with mutual fund exchanges. The findings stated that the pre-signed forms were completed and submitted to the firm following execution of the transactions. The firm did not require these forms be signed prior to the transactions and Higgins' actions were in violation of the firm's WSP's.**Current Status:** Final



Resolution: Acceptance, Waiver & Consent(AWC)

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

Resolution Date: 02/22/2018

Sanctions Ordered: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Suspension

Sanction 1 of 1

Sanction Type: Suspension

Capacities Affected: All Capacities

Duration: Three months

Start Date: 03/19/2018

End Date: 06/18/2018

Monetary Sanction 1 of 1

Monetary Related Sanction: Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)

Total Amount: \$5,000.00

Portion Levied against individual: \$5,000.00

Payment Plan:

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual: 03/05/2018

Was any portion of penalty waived?

Amount Waived:



Employment Separation After Allegations

This type of disclosure event involves a situation where the broker voluntarily resigned, was discharged, or was permitted to resign after being accused of (1) violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; (2) fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or (3) failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules, or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Firm
Employer Name: PROEQUITIES INC
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 05/25/2016
Allegations: Firm investigation determined that from approximately late 2012 through April 2016, representative was responsible for having clients sign blank or undated forms and was also responsible (by either engaging in the practice or overseeing office employees who engaged in the practice) for the "whiting out" of dates on forms requiring client signatures in order to reuse the forms. The above practices occurred in more than 100 customer accounts. Representative initially denied knowledge and existence of the practices but later that day admitted to knowing about them.
Product Type: Mutual Fund

Reporting Source: Broker
Employer Name: PRO EQUITIES INC
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 05/25/2016
Allegations: I WAS DISCHARGED FOR THE USE OF PRE-SIGNED CLIENT FORMS FOR MUTUAL FUND TRADE ACTIVITY
Product Type: Mutual Fund
Broker Statement I WAS TERMINATED BY PRO EQUITIES INC DUE TO THE USE OF PRE-SIGNED CLIENT SWITCH FORMS

End of Report



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