

BrokerCheck Report

William Michael Bell

CRD# 2529798

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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.

William M. Bell

CRD# 2529798

Currently employed by and registered with the following Firm(s):

IA EDWARD JONES
 307 2ND STREET N E
 HICKORY, NC 28601
 CRD# 250
 Registered with this firm since: 06/06/2007

B EDWARD JONES
 307 2ND STREET N E
 HICKORY, NC 28601
 CRD# 250
 Registered with this firm since: 10/10/1994

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:

- 4 Self-Regulatory Organizations
- 36 U.S. states and territories

This broker has passed:

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

Registration History

This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):

No information reported.

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
Customer Dispute	3



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 4 SROs and is licensed in 36 U.S. states and territories through his or her employer.

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **EDWARD JONES**

Main Office Address: **12555 MANCHESTER ROAD
ST. LOUIS, MO 63131-3710**

Firm CRD#: **250**

	SRO	Category	Status	Date
B	FINRA	General Securities Representative	Approved	10/10/1994
B	NYSE American LLC	General Securities Representative	Approved	09/13/2011
B	Nasdaq Stock Market	General Securities Representative	Approved	07/12/2006
B	New York Stock Exchange	General Securities Representative	Approved	11/28/1994

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Alabama	Agent	Approved	08/27/2019
B	Arizona	Agent	Approved	05/03/2004
B	Arkansas	Agent	Approved	07/29/2011
B	California	Agent	Approved	05/15/2003
B	Colorado	Agent	Approved	05/24/2006
B	District of Columbia	Agent	Approved	03/13/2006
B	Florida	Agent	Approved	05/28/2003
B	Georgia	Agent	Approved	10/31/1995
B	Illinois	Agent	Approved	05/24/2006

Broker Qualifications



Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	Indiana	Agent	Approved	03/12/2003
B	Iowa	Agent	Approved	06/30/2023
B	Kentucky	Agent	Approved	04/27/2005
B	Louisiana	Agent	Approved	09/04/2003
B	Maryland	Agent	Approved	06/20/2016
B	Massachusetts	Agent	Approved	07/27/2020
B	Michigan	Agent	Approved	09/21/2015
B	Minnesota	Agent	Approved	06/30/2023
B	Mississippi	Agent	Approved	07/18/2007
B	Missouri	Agent	Approved	12/02/1994
B	Montana	Agent	Approved	09/26/2011
B	Nevada	Agent	Approved	03/18/2016
B	New Hampshire	Agent	Approved	04/09/2014
B	New Jersey	Agent	Approved	10/16/2007
B	New Mexico	Agent	Approved	11/05/2010
B	New York	Agent	Approved	04/28/2008
B	North Carolina	Agent	Approved	12/15/1994
IA	North Carolina	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	06/06/2007
B	Ohio	Agent	Approved	09/04/2003
B	Pennsylvania	Agent	Approved	11/01/2005
B	South Carolina	Agent	Approved	10/15/1996



Broker Qualifications

Employment 1 of 1, continued

	U.S. State/ Territory	Category	Status	Date
B	South Dakota	Agent	Approved	11/21/2019
B	Tennessee	Agent	Approved	06/22/2001
B	Texas	Agent	Approved	07/09/2013
IA	Texas	Investment Adviser Representative	Restricted Approval	05/20/2021
B	Utah	Agent	Approved	02/28/2022
B	Virginia	Agent	Approved	05/13/1996
B	Washington	Agent	Approved	05/04/2007
B	West Virginia	Agent	Approved	08/01/2016

Branch Office Locations

EDWARD JONES
 307 2ND STREET N E
 HICKORY, NC 28601



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, 2 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	10/07/1994

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	06/04/2007
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	11/17/1994

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 **0** professional designation(s).

No information reported.



Registration and Employment History

Registration History

The broker previously was registered with the following firms:

Registration Dates	Firm Name	CRD#	Branch Location
No information reported.			

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
08/1994 - Present	EDWARD D. JONES	OTHER - IR TRAINER	N	MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MO, United States
08/1994 - Present	EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P.	NOT PROVIDED	Y	HICKORY, NC, 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.

1379 Viewmont Square LLC

Type of business: Comm. RE EJ leases a portion

Hickory, NC

Start date: 10/1/2008

Owner 50%

Hours per week: 0

Hours during trading: 0

Maintain property as landlord.

Colossians 1:10 LLC

type of business: Rental prop erty

Hickory, NC

Start date: 1/24/2011

Co-Own 50%

Hours per week: 0

Hours during trading: 0

Registration and Employment History



Other Business Activities, continued

Maintain property.

Jea Design LLC

Type of business: 2 Rental Prop EDJ Rents 1

Hickory NC, NC

Start date: 9/28/2005

50% Owner

Hours per week: 0

Hours during trading: 0

Maintain property.

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:**
 - A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before a broker is required to disclose a particular criminal event.
 - 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.
 -
3. **Disclosure events in BrokerCheck reports come from different sources:**
 - 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.
 -
4. **There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:**
 - 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.
 - 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
Customer Dispute	0	3	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.

Customer Dispute - Closed-No Action / Withdrawn / Dismissed / Denied

This type of disclosure event involves (1) a consumer-initiated, investment-related arbitration or civil suit containing allegations of sales practice violations against the individual broker that was dismissed, withdrawn, or denied; or (2) a consumer-initiated, investment-related written complaint containing allegations that the broker engaged in sales practice violations resulting in compensatory damages of at least \$5,000, forgery, theft, or misappropriation, or conversion of funds or securities, which was closed without action, withdrawn, or denied.

Disclosure 1 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: EDWARD JONES

Allegations: 9/10/08; CLIENT STATES SHE INHERITED HER IRA FROM HER FATHER AND THE FUNDS HAD BEEN REMAINING IN MONEY MARKET. CLIENT INDICATES THE FA INFORMED HER THERE WERE OTHER INVESTMENTS THAT WOULD BE SAFE THAT OFFER BETTER RETURNS. CLIENT CLAIMS AT NO POINT DID THE FA INFORM HER HE WOULD BE INVESTING THE FUNDS IN EQUITIES. CLIENT IS QUESTIONING THE SUITABILITY OF THE MUTUAL FUNDS. CLIENT IS REQUESTING HER ACCOUNT BE RETURNED TO THE VALUE PRIOR TO THESE TRADES BEING MADE. LOSSES EXCEED \$5,000.

Product Type: Mutual Fund(s)

Alleged Damages: \$5,000.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/02/2008

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 03/19/2009

Settlement Amount:



**Individual Contribution
Amount:**

Broker Statement

ACCORDING TO FA, HE DID SPEAK WITH THE CLIENT ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 AT WHICH TIME HE DISCUSSED THE CLIENT'S OBJECTIVES FOR THE MONEY HELD IN THE ACCOUNT. FA HAS INDICATED CLIENT ULTIMATELY AGREED RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS FOR RETIREMENT AND INCOME WAS NEVER DISCUSSED AS ONE OF THE CLIENT'S OBJECTIVES FOR THESE FUNDS. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THE FA REVIEWED THE DETAILS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ALLIANCE BERNSTEIN WEALTH STRATEGIES MUTUAL FUNDS WITH HER, INCLUDING THAT THE FUNDS WOULD GO UP AND DOWN IN VALUE. FA STATED HE NEVER INFORMED THE CLIENT THE MUTUAL FUNDS WERE SAFE. FA HAS STATED AFTER THIS DISCUSSION, CLIENT MADE THE DECISION TO PURCHASE C SHARES IN BOTH FUNDS AND HE FULLY BELIEVES CLIENT UNDERSTOOD SHE WAS BUYING AN EQUITY INVESTMENT. SINCE THE MUTUAL FUNDS WERE PURCHASED IN SEPTEMBER, CLIENT WOULD HAVE RECEIVED ACCOUNT STATEMENTS REFLECTING THE ACTIVITY IN HER ACCOUNT. FURTHER, TRADE CONFIRMATIONS, AS WELL AS PROSPECTUSES (WHICH DISCLOSE ALL DETAILS OF THE MUTUAL FUNDS) WOULD HAVE BEEN MAILED TO THE CLIENT AT THE TIME OF PURCHASE. IT DOES NOT APPEAR CLIENT EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING THE MUTUAL FUNDS UNTIL THREE MONTHS AFTER THE TRADE DATE. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND CLIENT'S DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE MUTUAL FUNDS, WE HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING TUMULTUOUS MARKET CONDITIONS AND FLUCTUATION IS A RISK ASSOCIATED WITH INVESTING. BASED ON OUR REVIEW, WE RESPECTFULLY DENY CLIENT'S REQUEST TO REINSTATE HER ACCOUNT TO THE VALUE PRIOR TO INVESTING IN THE MUTUAL FUNDS.

Disclosure 2 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker

Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: EDWARD JONES

Allegations: CLIENT STATES HE WAS ADVISED BY IR TO PURCHASE TWO STOCKS AND AN ANNUITY AND HAS LOST MONEY. CLIENT ALSO STATES HE WAS PROMISED AN 8% ANNUAL RETURN ON HIS INVESTMENT AND HAS LOST SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NOT SURE OF THE DEATH PAYOUT AS PROMISED. CLIENT STATES HE HAS LOST \$16,691 OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

Product Type: Other

Alleged Damages: \$16,691.00



Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 12/14/2004
Complaint Pending? No
Status: Closed/No Action
Status Date: 02/04/2005

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Broker Statement

AT THE TIME OF THE PURCHASES OF SCHERING PLOUGH AND MCI WORLD.COM INVESTMENTS, OUR FIRM MAINTAINED A BUY RECOMMENDATION AND THE INVESTMENTS WERE CATEGORIZED AS "GROWTH". EDWARD JONES OPINIONS ARE BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME THE OPINION IS PUBLISHED AND WHILE WE BELIEVE THE INFORMATION ON WHICH THE OPINION IS BASED IS RELIABLE, IT IS NOT GUARANTEED. OUR RESEARCH ANALYSTS ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO CLIENTS TO ASSIST THEM IN MAKING INVESTMENT DECISIONS. HOWEVER, OUR ANALYSTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO PREDICT AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE. BECAUSE THE FUTURE CANNOT BE PREDICTED WITH COMPLETE ACCURACY, WE ENCOURAGE OUR CLIENTS TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE BY MAINTAINING DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIOS. AS TO THE NOTE REGARDING THE ANNUITY, THE IR HAS INDICATED HE EXPLAINED THE DETAILS OF THE ANNUITY INCLUDING FEES, THE UNDERLYING INVESTMENTS, TAX-DEFERRED GROWTH AND THE DEATH BENEFIT. IR CONTENDS HE DID NOT GUARANTEE AN EIGHT PERCENT RETURN. BASED ON OUR INVESTIGATION, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THE INVESTMENTS HELD IN THE ACCOUNT ARE OUTSIDE OF THE SCOPE OF THE INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AS LISTED ON THE ACCOUNT.

Disclosure 3 of 3

Reporting Source: Broker
Employing firm when activities occurred which led to the complaint: EDWARD JONES

Allegations: THE CLIENT STATES TWO WITHDRAWALS FROM HER ACCOUNT WERE ACCEPTED PURSUANT TO THE DIRECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND, 6/3/99 FOR \$3,110 AND 9/7/98 FOR \$7,000. THE CLIENT ALLEGES BOTH WITHDRAWALS WERE DONE WITHOUT THE CLIENTS



AUTHORIZATION. THE CLIENT REQUEST THE FUNDS BE RETURNED IN ADDITION TO EDJ INCURRING LIABILITY FOR THE TAX CONSEQUENCES DUE TO THE WITHDRAWAL.

F

Product Type: No Product

Alleged Damages: \$10,110.00

Customer Complaint Information

Date Complaint Received: 11/27/2000

Complaint Pending? No

Status: Denied

Status Date: 12/06/2000

Settlement Amount:

Individual Contribution Amount:

Broker Statement

FOR EACH DISTRIBUTION, THE BRANCH STAFF REQUESTED SIGNATURES ON DOCUMENTS THAT WERE FORWARDED TO THE PUTNAM FUND. PUTNAM ISSUED CHECKS OUT TO CUSTOMER ONLY AT THE ADDRESS OF RECORD LISTED ON THE ACCOUNT.

THE SIGNATURES ON THE BACK OF THE CHECKS AND SIGNATURES ON THE REQUESTS FOR DISTRIBUTION APPEAR SIMILAR.

THE BRANCH STAFF ACTED APPROPRIATELY IN REQUESTING THE APPROPRIATE SIGNED DOCUMENTS. CLAIM DENIED.

End of Report



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