

BrokerCheck Report

Steven Michael Blanchard

CRD# 6042470

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Broker Qualifications	2 - 3
Registration and Employment History	5 - 6
Disclosure Events	7



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.

Steven M. Blanchard

CRD# 6042470

This broker is not currently registered.

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 not currently registered.****This broker has passed:**

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

Registration History**This broker was previously registered with the following securities firm(s):****B LPL FINANCIAL LLC**
CRD# 6413
CORNELIUS, NC

03/2023 - 09/2024

B RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
CRD# 6694
Buffalo, NY
08/2021 - 03/2023**B TIAA-CREF INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, LLC**
CRD# 20472
AMHERST, NY
12/2017 - 07/2021**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	2
Termination	2

Investment Adviser Representative Information

The information below represents the individual's record as a broker. For details on this individual's record as an investment adviser representative, visit the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at

<https://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov>

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 broker is not currently registered.

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, 3 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	10/09/2014
B Investment Company Products/Variable Contracts Representative Examination	Series 6	06/07/2012

State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
B IA Uniform Combined State Law Examination	Series 66	09/22/2016
B Uniform Securities Agent State Law Examination	Series 63	07/11/2012

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
B 03/2023 - 09/2024	LPL FINANCIAL LLC	6413	CORNELIUS, NC
B 08/2021 - 03/2023	RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.	6694	Buffalo, NY
B 12/2017 - 07/2021	TIAA-CREF INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, LLC	20472	AMHERST, NY
B 01/2013 - 12/2017	M&T SECURITIES, INC.	17358	RIVIERA BEACH, MD
B 07/2012 - 10/2012	AXA ADVISORS, LLC	6627	WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

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
03/2023 - Present	LPL Financial LLC	Registered Representative	Y	Hickory, NC, United States
07/2021 - Present	Blanchard Group LLC	OWNER	N	BUFFALO, NY, United States
08/2021 - 03/2023	Crux Wealth Advisors	REGISTERED ASSOCIATE	N	BUFFALO, NY, United States
08/2021 - 03/2023	Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.	Investment Adviser Representative	Y	Buffalo, NY, United States
08/2021 - 03/2023	Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.	Registered Representative	Y	Buffalo, NY, United States
12/2017 - 08/2021	TIAA	Wealth Management Advisor	Y	Amherst, NY, United States
12/2017 - 08/2021	TIAA-CREF INDIVIDUAL & INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES, LLC	Registered Representative	Y	Amherst, NY, United States

Registration and Employment History



Employment History, continued

Employment	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
01/2013 - 12/2017	M&T SECURITIES, INC.	SECURITIES ADVISOR	Y	BUFFALO, NY, 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) 07/25/2023 - Blanchard Group - Not Investment Related - At Reported Business Location(s) - DBA for LPL Business (entity for LPL business) - Start Date 06/15/2023 - 40 Hours Per Month/ 40 Hours During Trading

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	2	0
Termination	N/A	2	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 2

Reporting Source:	Regulator
Regulatory Action Initiated By:	FINRA
Sanction(s) Sought:	Suspension
Date Initiated:	01/06/2025
Docket/Case Number:	23-01988
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:	n/a
Product Type:	No Product
Allegations:	Respondent Blanchard failed to comply with an arbitration award or settlement agreement or to satisfactorily respond to a FINRA request to provide information concerning the status of compliance.
Current Status:	Final
Resolution:	Letter



Does the order constitute a final order based on

violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

Resolution Date: 01/06/2025

Sanctions Ordered: 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 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: Indefinite

Start Date: 01/06/2025

End Date:

**Regulator Statement**

Pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of FINRA By-Laws, and FINRA Rule 9554, Respondent Blanchard is suspended on January 6, 2025 for failure to comply with an arbitration award or settlement agreement or to satisfactorily respond to a FINRA request to provide information concerning the status of compliance.

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Regulator

Regulatory Action Initiated By: FINRA

Sanction(s) Sought:

Date Initiated: 12/23/2024

Docket/Case Number: [2023078308801](#)

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action: Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

Product Type: No Product

Allegations: Without admitting or denying the findings, Blanchard consented to the sanctions and to the entry of findings that he submitted falsified documents to his member firm in connection with the firm's investigation of a firm customer, who had a personal relationship with Blanchard. The findings stated that the investigation focused on whether the customer had submitted a fabricated offer of employment from the firm in support of a mortgage loan application. Blanchard produced the falsified documents to the firm to make it believe that he had hired the customer. These included an offer letter he fabricated and a purported email exchange he had with the customer using the firm's email system. In fact, the emails had been fabricated and the firm's email system had no record of the emails being sent to or from Blanchard's email account. Blanchard also falsified an email exchange between his customer and the mortgage company, which he forwarded to the firm from his firm email account. The purpose of these emails was to make the firm believe he was not involved with the customer's mortgage application and to give the appearance that his fabricated letter was provided to the mortgage company. The findings also stated that during FINRA's investigation of this matter, Blanchard provided false information and documents in response to FINRA's requests for information. In particular, Blanchard falsely represented to FINRA that his offer letter was genuine. In fact, as Blanchard knew, the offer letter had been fabricated. In addition, Blanchard produced to FINRA other fabricated documents, including documents purportedly showing that the customer had performed marketing services for the firm. In fact, those documents had been created after the firm began its internal investigation. Blanchard subsequently recanted and accepted



responsibility for the false information and documents he provided to FINRA.

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?	No
Resolution Date:	12/23/2024
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?	No
(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 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:	two years
Start Date:	01/06/2025
End Date:	01/05/2027

**Monetary Sanction 1 of 1**

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

Total Amount: \$15,000.00

Portion Levied against individual: \$15,000.00

Payment Plan: deferred

Is Payment Plan Current:

Date Paid by individual:

Was any portion of penalty waived? No

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 2

Reporting Source: Firm
Employer Name: Raymond James Financial Services, Advisors
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 02/24/2023
Allegations: Discharged after allegations that Individual used branch letterhead to convey offer of employment to a third party without authorization
Product Type: No Product

Reporting Source: Broker
Employer Name: Raymond James Financial Services, Advisors
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 02/24/2023
Allegations: Discharged after allegations that Individual used branch letterhead to convey offer of employment to a third party without authorization
Product Type: No Product

Broker Statement

As explained in the facts laid out above (some of which are relevant to this disclosure so are incorporated in this response), this disclosure is inaccurate. I understood from supervisory personnel that the matter was closed shortly after I responded to Raymond James' review around 1/25/23 and that the firm was taking no action.

After the matter was closed, I submitted a letter of resignation on February 17, 2023 which offered 30 days' notice as I was contractually required to do. My resignation indicated that I was open to terminating prior to 30 days.

Approximately 1 week after I submitted my February 17, 2023 resignation letter, I received a February 24, 2023 termination letter from Crux/Travis Alexander.

This was clearly not a "discharge" and should not have been reported as such because I had already submitted my voluntary resignation.

I have reason to believe that these improper disclosures were initiated by the former branch management for competitive purposes, to hurt my business and reputation and unfairly retain my clients.

I have retained counsel and am pursuing correction of this disclosure as well as



the improper designation of the termination as "discharged" based on the fact that I had already resigned

Disclosure 2 of 2

Reporting Source: Firm
Employer Name: Raymond James Financial Services, Inc
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 02/24/2023
Allegations: Discharged after allegations that Individual used branch letterhead to convey offer of employment to a third party without authorization.
Product Type: No Product

Reporting Source: Broker
Employer Name: RAYMOND JAMES FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 02/24/2023
Allegations: Discharged after allegations that Individual used branch letterhead to convey offer of employment to a third party without authorization.
Product Type: No Product

Broker Statement

As explained in the facts laid out above (some of which are relevant to this disclosure so are incorporated in this response), this disclosure is inaccurate. I understood from supervisory personnel that the matter was closed shortly after I responded to Raymond James' review around 1/25/23 and that the firm was taking no action.

After the matter was closed, I submitted a letter of resignation on February 17, 2023 which offered 30 days' notice as I was contractually required to do. My resignation indicated that I was open to terminating prior to 30 days.

Approximately 1 week after I submitted my February 17, 2023 resignation letter, I received a February 24, 2023 termination letter from Crux/Travis Alexander. This was clearly not a "discharge" and should not have been reported as such because I had already submitted my voluntary resignation.

I have reason to believe that these improper disclosures were initiated by the former branch management for competitive purposes, to hurt my business and reputation and unfairly retain my clients.

I have retained counsel and am pursuing correction of this disclosure as well as the improper designation of the termination as "discharged" based on the fact that I



had already resigned

End of Report



This page is intentionally left blank.