

## Client Relationship Summary The Clifford Group LLC (CRD# 318897)

## Introduction

Our firm, The Clifford Group LLC, is registered as an investment adviser with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ and it is important for you to understand these differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at <a href="Investor.gov/CRS">Investor.gov/CRS</a>, which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

## **Relationships and Services**

### What investment services and advice can you provide me?

**Services:** We offer investment advisory services to retail investors. These services include wealth management which is a combination of financial planning and investment management. Our services are offered as a wrap fee program where we combine securities transaction fees and other fees and expenses with our investment advisory services. We work closely with you to identify your investment goals and objectives, as well as risk tolerance and financial situation in order to develop an investment approach.

Accounts, Investments, and Monitoring: We provide services to individual, joint, retirement, trust and estate accounts. We primarily use exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"), mutual funds, stocks, and/or bonds in constructing portfolios. We do not make available or offer advice with respect to only proprietary products or a limited menu of products or types of investments. As part of our standard services, we monitor portfolios and securities in accounts on a regular and continuous basis. We also offer to meet with you at least annually, or more frequently, depending on your needs.

**Investment Authority:** We provide our services on a perpetual and discretionary basis. We execute investment recommendations in accordance with your investment objectives without your prior approval of each specific transaction. Our engagement will continue until you notify us otherwise in writing.

**Account Minimums & Other Requirements:** We do not require an account or relationship size minimum in order for you to open/maintain an account or establish a relationship.

**Additional Information:** For more detailed information on our relationships and services, please see Item 4 – Advisory Services, Item 13 – Review of Accounts and Item 7 – Types of Clients of our Form ADV Part 2A available via our firm's **Investment Adviser Public Disclosure Page**.

**Conversation Starters:** Given my financial situation, should I choose an investment advisory 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?

## Fees, Costs, Conflicts, and Standard of Conduct

#### What fees will I pay?

Asset-Based Fees: Our asset-based fees for wealth management services range from 0.75% to 1.50% annually. This fee is collected on a quarterly basis and calculated as a percentage of the value of the cash and investments in your account[s] that we manage. This presents a conflict of interest as we are financially incentivized to encourage you to place more assets in your advisory account as you will pay more in advisory fees. Asset-based fees will include securities transaction fees and fees to the custodian that has custody of your assets.

**Other Fees & Costs:** In addition to our advisory fee, you will also be responsible for third party manager (if applicable), wire fees (if applicable), and account administrative fees and expenses related to mutual funds and ETFs.

Additional Information: 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. For more detailed information on our fees, please see Item 5 – Fees and Compensation of our Form ADV Part 2A available via our firm's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure Page.

**Conversation Starters**: 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 acting as my investment adviser? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

When we act as your investment adviser, we have to act in your best interest and not put our interests 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 investment advice we provide you. Here is an example to help you understand what this means.

We sponsor a wrap fee program which means that we bundle securities transaction fees with our investment advisory services for a single investment advisory fee. In other words, we absorb any securities transaction fees in your accounts. We are therefore financially incentivized to limit the number of trades placed in your accounts or to utilize securities that have no transaction fee.

Our financial professionals are licensed as insurance agents. In addition to our services, your financial professional will offer you insurance products in their separate capacity as an insurance agent. The fees charged for the implementation of insurance products are separate from our advisory fees, where your financial professional will earn commission-based compensation for the implementation of an insurance product. Therefore, there is a financial incentive to recommend that you implement insurance through our financial professionals.

We will recommend that you open your account with a specific custodian, where we maintain an institutional relationship and receive economic benefits. The receipt of economic benefits presents a conflict of interest and can influence our recommendation of the custodian to you. However, you ultimately decide where to open your accounts. Choosing a different custodian may result in the loss of quality of service and/or ability to obtain favorable prices.

**Additional Information:** For more detailed information, please see Item 10 – Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations, Item 12 – Brokerage Practices and Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation of our Form ADV Part 2A available via our firm's **Investment Adviser Public Disclosure Page**.

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

#### How do your financial professionals make money?

Our financial professionals are compensated based on the revenue generated from advisory services. This means our financial professionals have an incentive to increase the asset size in the relationship or solicit new business, taking time away from the day-to-day servicing of existing clients.

## **Disciplinary History**

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

No. You can visit <u>Investor.gov/CRS</u> for a free and simple search tool to research our firm and our financial professionals.

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

## **Additional Information**

You can find additional information about our investment advisory services by viewing our Form ADV Part 2A available via our firm's <u>Investment Adviser Public Disclosure Page</u> or by visiting <a href="https://thecliffordgrp.com">https://thecliffordgrp.com</a>. You can request up to date information and a copy of our Client Relationship Summary by contacting us at (617) 600-2083.

**Conversation Starters:** Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment advisor? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?

## **Material Changes**

The following material changes have been made to our Form CRS:

We no longer have a broker-dealer affiliation with Triad Advisors, LLC