

Education & Prevention

As an investor, you should:

1. Ask for and receive information from a firm about the work history and background of the person handling your account, as well as information about the firm itself.
2. Receive complete information about the risks, obligations, and costs of any investment before investing.
3. Expect recommendations that are consistent with your financial needs and investment objectives.
4. Receive a copy of all agreements and account forms.
5. Receive accurate, understandable account statements regularly.
6. Understand the terms and conditions of all transactions.
7. Access funds reasonably and be informed of restrictions on access.
8. Discuss problems with a manager or compliance department.
9. Acquire information about commissions, extraneous charges, transaction fees, and penalties.
10. Contact your state securities agency to verify registration and disciplinary history of your securities salesperson or firm, to find out if the investment is permitted to be sold, or to file a complaint.

Adapted from © NASAA

Contact Us

To verify registrations, file a complaint or inquire about statutes or rules:

Duty Officer
602-542-0662
securitiesdiv@azcc.gov

To arrange investor education presentations or request materials:

Investor Education Coordinator
602-542-0428

For general information on wise investing and fraud prevention, visit:

www.azinvestor.gov

**Ask and check
before you invest!**



For additional information, contact:

Securities Division, Third Floor
Arizona Corporation Commission
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Toll Free: 1-866-VERIFY-9 (837-4399)

Fax: 602-388-1335
Email: info@azinvestor.gov
Web: www.azinvestor.gov

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ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

Securities Division

A stack of US dollar bills, including a prominent \$100 bill featuring Benjamin Franklin, is shown in the background of the text.

**Who We Are and
What We Can
Do for You**

Division Functions

The Securities Division makes sure that securities dealers, salespeople, investment advisers, and investment adviser representatives are registered or licensed with the Securities Division. It further reviews the applications and monitors the conduct of the registrants for any violations of securities and investment adviser laws. Registered offerings of securities made to investors are reviewed for fairness and a full disclosure of risk factors. The Securities Division conducts programs and offers free materials to educate and protect investors against fraud and dishonest or illegal practices in the securities industry.



Definition of Securities

Securities are investments, including stocks, bonds, debentures, various commodities, mutual funds, variable annuities, and numerous other means of entrusting one's money to another with the expectation of earning a profit. Securities and the persons who offer and sell them are subject to registration in Arizona.

Some other examples of securities may include promissory notes, interest in mining ventures, real property investment contracts, and other "investment contracts." Even if the seller doesn't call the investment a "security," and refers to it as a "business opportunity," it still could be a security subject to the Securities Division's jurisdiction. Components by which you can identify a security include:

- An investment of money (or valuable property) in a common enterprise,
- With an expectation that you will receive a profit,
- Where you expect the profit to come primarily from the efforts of someone other than yourself.

Division Assistance

While the Securities Division cannot give you specific legal or investment advice, our Duty Officers can provide important background information on a company or individual who are selling investments

or providing specific investment advice. Before handing over your money, you need to determine the license status and possible disciplinary history of the investment salesperson or adviser—even if it's with someone you know and trust. If you submit a complaint about an investment adviser or individual selling you an investment, the Securities Division can conduct an investigation if a violation of state securities laws has occurred.

Division Sections

The Securities Division is divided into two major sections each with separate but overlapping responsibilities:

Registration and Compliance—whose responsibility is to register securities, dealers, salesmen, investment advisers, and investment adviser representatives, continually monitor their actions through investigative review, and initiate enforcement actions when the law is violated.

Enforcement—whose primary function is to investigate and prosecute securities violations. The enforcement staff reviews complaints gathered from a variety of sources, investigates data to determine a course of action, and if warranted, seeks administrative remedies, or refers the case for criminal prosecution.