

**Important Reminders:** You may have civil remedies under the Tennessee Securities Act of 1980; however, these remedies are governed by statute of limitations that may prevent you from recovering your losses if you do not act in a timely manner. You should consult a private attorney for further individual advice.

Any action the Securities Division takes on your complaint will be to enforce the Securities Act and Rules, not to recover investor funds. The Division does not legally represent individual interests and cannot compel anyone to return your money.

**What Financial Services Investigation Unit (“FSIU”) cannot do?** Act as your lawyer or give legal advice.

#### What is a security?

- A security is broadly defined to include a wide array of investments such as stocks, bonds, notes, debentures, limited partnership interests, oil and gas interests, and investment contracts.
- Generally, if an investment of money is made in a business with the expectation of a profit to come through the efforts of someone other than the investor, it is considered a security.

#### What is not a security?

- Currency, a check (whether or not certified), draft, bill of exchange, or bank letter of credit.
- A note or other evidence of indebtedness issued in a mercantile or consumer transaction, rather than an investment transaction.
- An interest in a deposit account with a bank or savings and loan association.
- An insurance policy, endowment policy, or annuity contract under which an insurance company promises to pay money either in a lump sum, periodically for life, or for some other specified period.

#### Common characteristics of unregistered securities:

- They are represented as safe investments.
- They are represented as no risk investments.
- They are represented as guaranteed return investments.
- They offer returns on investment that are greater than the prevailing market.
- The sales commissions paid to sales agents are much higher than those for traditional products.

**How do I file a complaint?** You can file a complaint online, over the phone, or in person. The most convenient and expeditious way to file a complaint is to fill out a complaint form located on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/securities/investors/file-a-complaint.html>. Select the form for **Securities/Investments Complaint**.

**What documentation do I need to file a complaint?** Relevant documentation such as insurance policies, certificates of insurance, sales literature, account statements, cancelled checks, confirmations, correspondence, or anything else that might be pertinent to proving or disproving allegations. Generally, the more relevant documentation you supply, the easier it is to investigate your complaint.

**Can I file a complaint anonymously?** Yes, however, without knowing the source of the complaint, it is often difficult to effectively investigate the allegations.

**I have filed a complaint. What happens next?** After your complaint has been received by the Division, it will be reviewed and assigned to an investigator for further evaluation to determine whether an official investigation is recommended. An investigator may contact you for more facts and information. You may also be asked to give a formal interview or statement. If necessary, you may be asked to testify at an administrative hearing.

**What happens if FSIU determines that fraud has occurred?** If the investigation concludes that fraud has occurred, FSIU will recommend the appropriate administrative action be taken by our Legal Division. Such action could include fines, suspension, or revocation of license. If legal action is initiated, the outcome will be determined in a hearing before an administrative law judge. In certain situations, FSIU will refer the investigation to the appropriate law enforcement authorities for possible criminal prosecution.

**Where can I go to get more information on investor education?** Visit our website at <https://www.tn.gov/commerce/securities/investors/investor-education-program.html>

*Keep this sheet for your reference. Return only the following pages as your formal complaint.*



**Financial Services Investigation Unit**  
 500 James Robertson Parkway  
 Nashville, TN 37243

**Complaint Form:**

**Securities ❖ Investments**

**1. Your contact information (please print or type):**

Complainant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age group at time of incident/transaction:  Under 25     25 to 49     50 to 64     Over 65

**2. Who is your complaint against?  Investment Agency (Firm)     Investment Advisor (Individual)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Why are you filing this complaint? (Attach additional pages as needed)**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. When did the above transaction(s) occur? From: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_**

**5. Did any part of this interaction, or related activity, occur outside the state of Tennessee?  No or  Yes**

If yes, what state(s)? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Who was your point of contact for this transaction?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. List the type(s) of investment(s) involved (i.e., precious metals, oil and gas, stocks, bonds, promissory note, etc.)

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8. Total amount invested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

9. How did you first learn about this investment (i.e., social media, printed materials, television ad, radio ad, friend, family member)? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Did you sign any documents related to this activity or investments?  No or  Yes

If yes, please provide copies (no originals) with this completed form.

11. Do you have proof of payment of this investment that you can provide (i.e., wire transaction, cashier's check, personal check, electronic payment)?  No or  Yes

If yes, please provide copies (no originals) with this completed form.

12. Have you filed a complaint with another entity regarding your investment (i.e., the firm, law enforcement)?  No or  Yes If yes, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the outcome of the complaint? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Have you filed a complaint with another governmental or regulatory division regarding this matter (i.e., Securities and Exchange Commission, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Federal Trade Commission)?  No or  Yes If yes, to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the outcome of the complaint? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. Do you know of any other Tennessee investors?  No or  Yes

If yes, please list their names and contact information (if known) below:

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are you represented by an attorney in this matter?  No or  Yes

If yes, what is your attorney's name? \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Would you be willing to sign an affidavit and testify regarding your investment(s) with this Company/Individual?  No or  Yes

I do hereby verify that the information in this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Complainant's Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Complainant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_