

**Bickling Financial Services, Inc.**  
**dba Bickling Financial Services**  
**dba COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC**

**Form ADV Part 2A – Disclosure Brochure**

**Effective: May 21, 2021**

This Form ADV Part 2A (“Disclosure Brochure”) provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Bickling Financial Services, Inc. (“Bickling” or the “Advisor”). The Advisor conducts business under the practice names (“doing business as” or “dba” name) Bickling Financial Services and COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC. If you have any questions about the content of this Disclosure Brochure, please contact the Advisor at (781) 862-9792.

Bickling is a registered investment advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). The information in this Disclosure Brochure has not been approved or verified by the SEC or by any state securities authority. Registration of an investment advisor does not imply any specific level of skill or training. This Disclosure Brochure provides information about Bickling to assist you in determining whether to retain the Advisor.

Additional information about Bickling and its Advisory Persons is available on the SEC’s website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor’s firm name or CRD# 128544.

**Bickling Financial Services, Inc.**  
**35 Bedford Street, Suite 15, Lexington, MA 02420**  
**Phone: (781) 862-9792 \* Fax: (781) 674-2545**  
[www.bickling.com](http://www.bickling.com)

## Item 2 – Material Changes

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Form ADV 2 is divided into two parts: *Part 2A (the "Disclosure Brochure")* and *Part 2B (the "Brochure Supplement")*. The Disclosure Brochure provides information about a variety of topics relating to an Advisor's business practices and conflicts of interest. The Brochure Supplement provides information about the Advisory Persons of Bickling. For convenience, the Advisor has combined these documents into a single disclosure document.

Bickling believes that communication and transparency are the foundation of its relationship with clients and will continually strive to provide you with complete and accurate information at all times. Bickling encourages all current and prospective clients to read this Disclosure Brochure and discuss any questions you may have with the Advisor.

### Material Changes

The following material changes have been made to this Disclosure Brochure since the last filing and distribution to Clients:

- The Advisor conducts business using the dba Bickling Financial Services. Please see Item 1 and Item 4.
- The Advisor conducts business using the dba COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC. Please see Item 1 and Item 4.
- The Advisor has amended Items 4 and 5 to reflect wealth management services. Please see Items 4 and 5 for additional information.
- The Advisor has amended Item 5 to disclose a tiered fee schedule. Please see Item 5 for additional information.
- The Advisor has amended this Disclosure Brochure regarding the utilization of Independent Managers. Please see Items 4, 5 and 10 for additional information.
- The Advisor has amended this Disclosure Brochure regarding its ERISA services. Please see Items 4 and 5 for additional information.
- The Advisor has amended this Disclosure Brochure regarding the schedule and basis for billing Client accounts. Please see Item 5 for additional information.

### Future Changes

From time to time, the Advisor may amend this Disclosure Brochure to reflect changes in business practices, changes in regulations or routine annual updates as required by the securities regulators. This complete Disclosure Brochure or a Summary of Material Changes shall be provided to you annually and if a material change occurs.

At any time, you may view the current Disclosure Brochure on-line at the SEC's Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 128544. You may also request a copy of this Disclosure Brochure at any time by contacting the Advisor at (781) 862-9792.

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## **Item 4 – Advisory Services**

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### **A. Firm Information**

Bickling Financial Services, Inc. (“Bickling” or the “Advisor”) is a registered investment advisor with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Advisor is organized as a Corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Bickling was founded in 1984 and is owned and operated by Dorothy Bickling (President). The Advisor conducts business under the practice names (“doing business as” or “dba” name) Bickling Financial Services and COMPASS Wealth Management, LLC. This Disclosure Brochure provides information regarding the qualifications, business practices, and the advisory services provided by Bickling.

### **B. Advisory Services Offered**

Bickling offers wealth management services to individuals, high net worth individuals, families, trusts, estates, businesses, charitable organizations, and retirement plans (each referred to as a “Client”).

The Advisor serves as a fiduciary to Clients, as defined under the applicable laws and regulations. As a fiduciary, the Advisor upholds a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client and seeks to mitigate potential conflicts of interest. Bickling’s fiduciary commitment is further described in the Advisor’s Code of Ethics. For more information regarding the Code of Ethics, please see Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading.

#### Wealth Management Services

Bickling provides customized investment advisory solutions for its Clients. This is achieved through continuous personal Client contact and interaction while providing either discretionary or non-discretionary wealth management services. Wealth management services typically include investment management, financial planning and related advisory services.

Bickling works closely with each Client to identify their investment goals and objectives as well as risk tolerance and financial situation in order to create a portfolio strategy. Bickling will then construct an investment portfolio, consisting of low-cost, diversified mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (“ETFs”), closed end funds and alternative investments to achieve the Client’s investment goals. The Advisor may also utilize individual stocks, bonds or options contracts to meet the needs of its Clients. The Advisor may retain certain types of investments based on a Client’s legacy investments based on portfolio fit and/or tax considerations.

Bickling’s investment strategies are primarily long-term focused, but the Advisor may buy, sell or re-allocate positions that have been held for less than one year to meet the objectives of the Client or due to market conditions. Bickling will construct, implement and monitor the portfolio to ensure it meets the goals, objectives, circumstances, and risk tolerance agreed to by the Client. Each Client will have the opportunity to place reasonable restrictions on the types of investments to be held in their respective portfolio, subject to acceptance by the Advisor.

Bickling evaluates and selects investments for inclusion in Client portfolios only after applying its internal due diligence process. Bickling may recommend, on occasion, redistributing investment allocations to diversify the portfolio. Bickling may recommend specific positions to increase sector or asset class weightings. The Advisor may recommend employing cash positions as a possible hedge against market movement. Bickling may recommend selling positions for reasons that include, but are not limited to, harvesting capital gains or losses, business or sector risk exposure to a specific security or class of securities, overvaluation or overweighting of the position[s] in the portfolio, change in risk tolerance of the Client, generating cash to meet Client needs, or any risk deemed unacceptable for the Client’s risk tolerance.

At no time will Bickling accept or maintain custody of a Client’s funds or securities, except for the limited authority as outlined in Item 15 – Custody. All Client assets will be managed within the designated account[s] at the Custodian, pursuant to the terms of the advisory agreement. Please see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

#### Independent Managers

Bickling when appropriate will recommend that Clients utilize one or more unaffiliated investment managers or investment platforms (collectively “Independent Managers”) for all or a portion of a Client’s investment portfolio,

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based on the Client's needs and objectives. In certain instances, the Client may be required to authorize and enter into an investment management agreement with the Independent Manager[s] that defines the terms in which the Independent Manager[s] will provide its services. The Advisor will perform initial and ongoing oversight and due diligence over each Independent Manager to ensure the strategy remains aligned with Clients investment objectives and overall best interests. The Advisor will also assist the Client in the development of the initial policy recommendations and managing the ongoing Client relationship. The Client, prior to entering into an agreement with an Independent Manager, will be provided with the Independent Manager's Form ADV Part 2A - Disclosure Brochure (or a brochure that makes the appropriate disclosures).

#### Financial Planning Services

Bickling will typically provide a variety of financial planning and consulting services to Clients. Financial planning services may be included in an overall wealth management engagement or through a separate written financial planning agreement. Services are offered in several areas of a Client's financial situation, depending on their goals and objectives. Generally, such financial planning services involve preparing a formal financial plan or rendering a specific financial consultation based on the Client's financial goals and objectives. This planning or consulting may encompass one or more areas of need, including but not limited to, investment planning, retirement planning, personal savings, education savings, insurance needs and other areas of a Client's financial situation.

A financial plan developed for, or financial consultation rendered to the Client will usually include general recommendations for a course of activity or specific actions to be taken by the Client. For example, recommendations may be made that the Client start or revise their investment programs, commence or alter retirement savings, establish education savings and/or charitable giving programs.

Bickling may also refer Clients to an accountant, attorney or other specialists, as appropriate for their unique situation. For certain financial planning engagements, the Advisor will provide a written summary of the Client's financial situation, observations, and recommendations. For consulting or ad-hoc engagements, the Advisor may not provide a written summary. Stand-alone financial plans or consultations are typically completed within six (6) months of contract date, assuming all information and documents requested are provided promptly. Financial planning engagements last for twelve (12) months from the execution date of the financial planning agreement.

Financial planning and consulting recommendations pose a conflict between the interests of the Advisor and the interests of the Client. For example, the Advisor has an incentive to recommend that Clients engage the Advisor for investment management services or to increase the level of investment assets with the Advisor, as it would increase the amount of advisory fees paid to the Advisor. Clients are not obligated to implement any recommendations made by the Advisor or maintain an ongoing relationship with the Advisor. If the Client elects to act on any of the recommendations made by the Advisor, the Client is under no obligation to implement the transaction through the Advisor.

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Bickling provides retirement plan advisory services on behalf of the retirement plans (each a "Plan") and the company (the "Plan Sponsor"). The Advisor's retirement plan advisory services are designed to assist the Plan Sponsor in meeting its fiduciary obligations to the Plan and its Plan Participants. Each engagement is customized to the needs of the Plan and Plan Sponsor. Services generally include:

- Plan Participant Enrollment and Education Tracking
- Investment Management Services (ERISA 3(38))
- Performance Reporting
- Ongoing Investment Recommendation and Assistance
- Benchmarking Services

These services are provided by Bickling serving in the capacity as a fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). In accordance with ERISA Section 408(b)(2), the Plan Sponsor is provided with a written description of Bickling's fiduciary status, the specific services to be rendered and all direct and indirect compensation the Advisor reasonably expects under the engagement.

### C. Client Account Management

Prior to engaging Bickling to provide investment advisory services, each Client is required to enter into one or more agreements with the Advisor that define the terms, conditions, authority and responsibilities of the Advisor and the Client. These services may include:

- Establishing an Investment Strategy – Bickling, in connection with the Client, will develop a strategy that seeks to achieve the Client's goals and objectives.
- Asset Allocation – Bickling will develop a strategic asset allocation that is targeted to meet the investment objectives, time horizon, financial situation and tolerance for risk for each Client.
- Portfolio Construction – Bickling will develop a portfolio for the Client that is intended to meet the stated goals and objectives of the Client.
- Investment Management and Supervision – Bickling will provide investment management and ongoing oversight of the Client's investment portfolio.

### D. Wrap Fee Programs

Bickling does not manage or place Client assets into a wrap fee program. Investment management services are provided directly by Bickling.

### E. Assets Under Management

As of December 31, 2020 Bickling manages \$748,531,110 in Client assets, \$629,963,331 of which are managed on a discretionary basis and \$118,567,779 on a non-discretionary basis. Clients may request more current information at any time by contacting the Advisor.

## Item 5 – Fees and Compensation

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The following paragraphs detail the fee structure and compensation methodology for services provided by the Advisor. Each Client engaging the Advisor for services described herein shall be required to enter into one more written agreements with the Advisor.

### A. Fees for Advisory Services

#### Wealth Management and Investment Management Services

Investment advisory fees are paid quarterly, in arrears, at the end of each calendar quarter pursuant to the terms of the investment advisory agreement. Investment advisory fees are based on the average daily balance of portfolio assets under management in account[s] at the end of the calendar quarter. Investment advisory fees range up to 2.00% annually based on several factors, including: the scope and complexity of the services to be provided; the level of assets to be managed; and the overall relationship with the Advisor. Relationships with multiple objectives, specific reporting requirements, portfolio restrictions and other complexities may be charged a higher fee.

The Advisor also makes available to certain Clients a tiered based advisory fee schedule for wealth management services. The Client will pay the Advisor a quarterly investment advisory fee, payable in arrears of each quarter, based on the total market value of portfolio assets under management in the Account[s] on the last day of the calendar quarter. The investment advisory fees in the first quarter of the Agreement shall be prorated from the inception date to the end of the first quarter.

Supervised Assets	Annual Wealth Management Fee
First \$1 million	1.00% of assets
Next \$2 million	0.75% of assets
Next \$2 million	0.50% of assets
Over \$5 million	0.30% of assets

Fees may be negotiable at the sole discretion of the Advisor. The Client's fees will take into consideration the aggregate assets under management with the Advisor. All securities held in accounts managed by Bickling will be

independently valued by the Custodian. Bickling will not have the authority or responsibility to value portfolio securities.

The Advisor's fee is exclusive of, and in addition to any applicable securities transaction and custody fees, and other related costs and expenses described in Item 5.C below, which may be incurred by the Client. However, the Advisor shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Certain legacy clients may be subject to a separate billing schedule pursuant to the terms of their investment advisory agreement.

#### Use of Independent Managers

As noted in Item 4, the Advisor may implement all or a portion of a Client's investment portfolio utilizing one or more Independent Managers. To eliminate any conflict of interest, the Advisor does not earn any compensation from an Independent Manager. The Advisor will only earn its investment advisory fee as described above. The Advisor will allocate a portion of the advisory fee collected to the Independent Manager pursuant to the terms of the executed agreement between the Advisor and the Independent Manager. The total blended fee, including the Advisor's fee and the Independent Manager's fee, will not exceed 2.00% annually.

#### Financial Planning Services

Bickling offers financial planning services either on an hourly basis or a fixed engagement fee. Hourly fees range from \$250 to \$400 per hour. Fixed fees range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Fees may be negotiable based on the nature and complexity of the services to be provided and the overall relationship with the Advisor. An estimate for total hours and/or total costs will be provided to the Client prior to engaging for these services.

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Fees for retirement plan advisory services are charged an annual asset-based fee of up to 2.00% and are billed in arrears, pursuant to the terms of the retirement plan advisory agreement. Retirement plan advisory fees are based on the average daily balance of portfolio assets under management in accounts at the end of the prior quarter. At the Advisor's discretion it may offer retirement plan advisory services for an annual fixed fee. If an annual fixed fee option is agreed upon, the Plan will pay the Advisor the annual fee on a quarterly basis in arrears. Fixed fees for retirement plan advisory services ranges from \$10,000 to \$50,000 based on the scope and complexity of retirement plan advisory services to be provided to the Plan. Fees may be negotiable depending on the size and complexity of the Plan.

### **B. Fee Billing**

#### Wealth Management and Investment Management Services

Investment advisory fees are calculated by the Advisor or its delegate and deducted from the Client's account[s] at the Custodian. Certain clients that pay their investment advisory fees by check will receive an invoice for fees owed. The Advisor shall submit fee deductions to the Custodian indicating the amount of the fees to be deducted from the Client's account[s]. The Custodian does not perform a verification of fees. Client accounts are charged investment advisory fees quarterly in arrears based on the average daily balance for the previous quarter or the total market value on the last day of the calendar quarter. Certain legacy accounts are charged quarterly in advance, based on the average daily balance for the previous quarter. Clients are provided with a brokerage statement, at least quarterly, from the Custodian reflecting deduction of the investment advisory fees. Clients are urged to review the Advisory fees indicated on the custodial statement. Advisory fee statements are available to Clients upon request. Clients provide written authorization permitting advisory fees to be deducted by Bickling to be paid directly from their account[s] held by the Custodian as part of the investment advisory agreement and separate account forms provided by the Custodian.

#### Use of Independent Managers

For Client accounts implemented through an Independent Manager, the Client's overall fees may include Bickling's investment advisory fee (as noted above) plus investment management fees and/or platform fees charged by the Independent Manager[s], as applicable. In certain instances, the Independent Manager or the Advisor may assume responsibility for calculating the Client's fees and deduct all fees from the Client's account[s].

#### Financial Planning Services

Financial planning fees may be invoiced up to fifty percent (50%) of the expected total fee upon execution of the financial planning agreement. The balance shall be invoiced upon completion of the agreed upon deliverable[s].

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Retirement plan advisory fees may be directly invoiced to the Plan Sponsor or deducted from the assets of the Plan, depending on the terms of the retirement plan advisory agreement.

### **C. Other Fees and Expenses**

Clients may incur certain fees or charges imposed by third parties, other than Bickling, in connection with investments made on behalf of the Client's account[s]. The Client is responsible for all custody and securities execution fees charged by the Custodian, as applicable. The Advisor's recommended Custodian does not charge securities transaction fees for ETF and equity trades in a Client's account, provided that the account meets the terms and conditions of the Custodian's brokerage requirements. However, the Custodian typically charges for mutual funds and other types of investments. The fees charged by Bickling are separate and distinct from these custody and execution fees.

In addition, all fees paid to Bickling for investment advisory services are separate and distinct from the expenses charged by mutual funds and ETFs to their shareholders, if applicable. These fees and expenses are described in each fund's prospectus. These fees and expenses will generally be used to pay management fees for the funds, other fund expenses, account administration (e.g., custody, brokerage and account reporting), and a possible distribution fee. A Client may be able to invest in these products directly, without the services of Bickling, but would not receive the services provided by Bickling which are designed, among other things, to assist the Client in determining which products or services are most appropriate for each Client's financial situation and objectives. Accordingly, the Client should review both the fees charged by the fund[s] and the fees charged by Bickling to fully understand the total fees to be paid. Please refer to Item 12 – Brokerage Practices for additional information.

### **D. Advance Payment of Fees and Termination**

#### Wealth Management and Investment Management Services

Bickling may be compensated for its investment advisory services in advance of the quarter in which services are rendered for certain legacy Clients. Currently, Bickling is compensated for its investment advisory services at the end of the quarter, after investment advisory services are rendered. Either party may terminate the investment advisory agreement, at any time, by providing advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the investment advisory agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. Upon termination, the Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid investment advisory fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's investment advisory agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

#### Use of Independent Managers

In the event that the Advisor has determined that an Independent Manager is no longer in the Client's best interest or a Client should wish to terminate their relationship with the Independent Manager, the terms for the termination will be set forth in the respective agreements between the Client or the Advisor and the Independent Manager. Bickling will assist the Client with the termination and transition as appropriate.

#### Financial Planning Services

Bickling requires an advance deposit as described above. Either party may terminate the financial planning agreement, at any time, by providing advance written notice to the other party. The Client may also terminate the financial planning agreement within five (5) business days of signing the Advisor's agreement at no cost to the Client. After the five-day period, the Client will incur charges for bona fide advisory services rendered to the point of termination and such fees will be due and payable by the Client. Upon termination, the Client shall be billed for actual hours logged on the planning project times the contractual hourly rate or in the case of a fixed fee engagement, the percentage of the engagement scope completed by the Advisor. Upon termination, the Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid planning fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's financial planning agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

#### Retirement Plan Advisory Services

Bickling may be compensated for its retirement plan advisory services in advance of the quarter in which services are rendered for certain legacy Clients quarterly before advisory services are rendered. For new Plan Clients Bickling is compensated for its investment management services at the end of the quarter, after investment advisory services are rendered. Either party may terminate the retirement plan advisory agreement, at any time, by providing advance written notice to the other party. The Client shall be responsible for retirement plan advisory fees up to and including the effective date of termination. The Advisor will refund any unearned, prepaid retirement plan advisory fees from the effective date of termination to the end of the quarter. The Client's retirement plan advisory agreement with the Advisor is non-transferable without the Client's prior consent.

#### **E. Compensation for Sales of Securities**

Bickling does not buy or sell securities to earn commissions and does not receive any compensation for securities transactions in any Client account, other than the investment advisory fees noted above.

#### Broker-Dealer Affiliation

Advisory Persons are also registered representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling ("PKS"). PKS is a registered broker-dealer (CRD No. 35747), member FINRA, SIPC. In one's separate capacity as a registered representative of PKS, the Advisory Person will implement securities transactions under PKS and not through Bickling. In such instances, the Advisory Person will receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by the Advisory Person in one's capacity as a registered representative is separate and in addition to the Advisor's fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because the Advisory Person who is a registered representative has an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on the Client. Clients are not obligated to implement any recommendation provided by the Advisor nor Advisory Persons. Neither the Advisor nor Advisory Persons will earn ongoing investment advisory fees in connection with any products or services implemented in the Advisory Person's separate capacity as a registered representative. Please see Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

#### Insurance Agency Affiliations

Advisory Persons are also licensed as independent insurance professionals. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to Clients. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of the Advisor who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to Clients for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on Client needs. However, Clients are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with the Advisor. Please see Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

#### **Item 6 – Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management**

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Bickling does not charge performance-based fees for its investment advisory services. The fees charged by Bickling are as described in Item 5 above and are not based upon the capital appreciation of the funds or securities held by any Client.

Bickling does not manage any proprietary investment funds or limited partnerships (for example, a mutual fund or a hedge fund) and has no financial incentive to recommend any particular investment options to its Clients.

#### **Item 7 – Types of Clients**

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Bickling offers investment advisory services to individuals, high net worth individuals, families, trusts, estates, businesses, charitable organizations, and retirement plans. The amount of each type of Client is available on Bickling's Form ADV Part 1A. These amounts may change over time and are updated at least annually by the Advisor. Bickling generally does not impose a minimum relationship size.

## **Item 8 – Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss**

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### **A. Methods of Analysis**

Bickling employs fundamental, technical, and charting analysis methods in developing investment strategies for its Clients. Research and analysis from Bickling are derived from numerous sources, including financial media companies, third-party research materials, Internet sources, and review of company activities, including annual reports, prospectuses, press releases and research prepared by others.

*Fundamental analysis* utilizes economic and business indicators as investment selection criteria. This criteria consists generally of ratios and trends that may indicate the overall strength and financial viability of the entity being analyzed. Assets are deemed suitable if they meet certain criteria to indicate that they are a strong investment with a value discounted by the market. While this type of analysis helps the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in the fundamental analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

*Technical analysis* involves the analysis of past market data rather than specific company data in determining the recommendations made to clients. Technical analysis may involve the use of charts to identify market patterns and trends, which may be based on investor sentiment rather than the fundamentals of the company. The primary risk in using technical analysis is that spotting historical trends may not help to predict such trends in the future. Even if the trend will eventually reoccur, there is no guarantee that Bickling will be able to accurately predict such a reoccurrence.

*Charting analysis* utilizes various market indicators as investment selection criteria. These criteria are generally pricing trends that may indicate movement in the markets. Assets are deemed suitable if they meet certain criteria to indicate that they are a strong investment with a value discounted by the market. While this type of analysis helps the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in the technical and charting analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these market indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate.

As noted above, Bickling generally employs a long-term investment strategy for its Clients, as consistent with their financial goals. Bickling will typically hold all or a portion of a security for more than a year, but may hold for shorter periods for the purpose of rebalancing a portfolio or meeting the cash needs of Clients. At times, Bickling may also buy and sell positions that are more short-term in nature, depending on the goals of the Client and/or the fundamentals of the security, sector or asset class.

### **B. Risk of Loss**

Investing in securities involves certain investment risks. Securities may fluctuate in value or lose value. Clients should be prepared to bear the potential risk of loss. Bickling will assist Clients in determining an appropriate strategy based on their tolerance for risk and other factors noted above. However, there is no guarantee that a Client will meet their investment goals. Please see Item 8.B. for risks associated with the Advisor's investment strategies as well as general risks of investing.

While the methods of analysis help the Advisor in evaluating a potential investment, it does not guarantee that the investment will increase in value. Assets meeting the investment criteria utilized in these methods of analysis may lose value and may have negative investment performance. The Advisor monitors these economic indicators to determine if adjustments to strategic allocations are appropriate. More details on the Advisor's review process are included below in Item 13 – Review of Accounts.

Each Client engagement will entail a review of the Client's investment goals, financial situation, time horizon, tolerance for risk and other factors to develop an appropriate strategy for managing a Client's account. Client participation in this process, including full and accurate disclosure of requested information, is essential for the analysis of a Client's account[s]. The Advisor shall rely on the financial and other information provided by the Client

or their designees without the duty or obligation to validate the accuracy and completeness of the provided information. It is the responsibility of the Client to inform the Advisor of any changes in financial condition, goals or other factors that may affect this analysis.

The risks associated with a particular strategy are provided to each Client in advance of investing Client accounts. The Advisor will work with each Client to determine their tolerance for risk as part of the portfolio construction process. Following are some of the risks associated with the Advisor's investment strategies:

#### Market Risks

The value of a Client's holdings may fluctuate in response to events specific to companies or markets, as well as economic, political, or social events in the U.S. and abroad. This risk is linked to the performance of the overall financial markets.

The performance of ETFs is subject to market risk, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the ETFs will fluctuate with the price of the underlying securities that make up the funds. In addition, ETFs have a trading risk based on the loss of cost efficiency if the ETFs are traded actively and a liquidity risk if the ETFs have a large bid-ask spread and low trading volume. The price of an ETF fluctuates based upon the market movements and may dissociate from the index being tracked by the ETF or the price of the underlying investments. An ETF purchased or sold at one point in the day may have a different price than the same ETF purchased or sold a short time later. There is also a risk that Authorized Participants are unable to fulfill their responsibilities. Authorized Participants are one of the major parties involved with ETF creation/redemption mechanism in the markets. The Authorized Participants play a critical role in the liquidity of ETFs and essentially have the exclusive right to change the supply of ETF shares in the market. If the Authorized Participants does not fulfill this expected role, there could be an adverse impact on liquidity and the valuation of an ETF.

#### Bond ETFs

Bond ETFs are subject to specific risks, including the following: (1) interest rate risks, i.e. the risk that bond prices will fall if interest rates rise, and vice versa, the risk depends on two things, the bond's time to maturity, and the coupon rate of the bond. (2) reinvestment risk, i.e. the risk that any profit gained must be reinvested at a lower rate than was previously being earned, (3) inflation risk, i.e. the risk that the cost of living and inflation increase at a rate that exceeds the income investment thereby decreasing the investor's rate of return, (4) credit default risk, i.e. the risk associated with purchasing a debt instrument which includes the possibility of the company defaulting on its repayment obligation, (5) rating downgrades, i.e. the risk associated with a rating agency's downgrade of the company's rating which impacts the investor's confidence in the company's ability to repay its debt and (6) liquidity risks, i.e. the risk that a bond may not be sold as quickly as there is no readily available market for the bond.

#### Mutual Fund Risks

The performance of mutual funds is subject to market risk, including the possible loss of principal. The price of the mutual funds will fluctuate with the value of the underlying securities that make up the funds. The price of a mutual fund is typically set daily therefore a mutual fund purchased at one point in the day will typically have the same price as a mutual fund purchased later that same day.

#### Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs")

Investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") involves certain distinct risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. For example, equity REITs may be affected by changes in the value of the underlying property owned by the REITs, while mortgage REITs may be affected by the quality of credit extended. REITs are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and self-liquidation. REITs, especially mortgage REITs, are also subject to interest rate risk (i.e., as interest rates rise, the value of the REIT may decline).

#### Structured Notes

**Complexity:** Structured notes are complex financial instruments. Clients should understand the reference asset(s) or index(es) and determine how the note's payoff structure incorporates such reference asset(s) or index(es) in calculating the note's performance. This payoff calculation may include leverage multiplied on the performance of the reference asset or index, protection from losses should the reference asset or index produce negative returns,

and fees. Structured notes may have complicated payoff structures that can make it difficult for clients to accurately assess their value, risk and potential for growth through the term of the structured note. Determining the performance of each note can be complex and this calculation can vary significantly from note to note depending on the structure. Notes can be structured in a wide variety of ways. Payoff structures can be leveraged, inverse, or inverse-leveraged, which may result in larger returns or losses. Clients should carefully read the prospectus for a structured note to fully understand how the payoff on a note will be calculated and discuss these issues with Bickling.

*Market risk.* Some structured notes provide for the repayment of principal at maturity, which is often referred to as "principal protection." This principal protection is subject to the credit risk of the issuing financial institution. Many structured notes do not offer this feature. For structured notes that do not offer principal protection, the performance of the linked asset or index may cause clients to lose some, or all, of their principal. Depending on the nature of the linked asset or index, the market risk of the structured note may include changes in equity or commodity prices, changes in interest rates or foreign exchange rates, and/or market volatility.

*Issuance price and note value:* The price of a structured note at issuance will likely be higher than the fair value of the structured note on the date of issuance. Issuers now generally disclose an estimated value of the structured note on the cover page of the offering prospectus, allowing investors to gauge the difference between the issuer's estimated value of the note and the issuance price. The estimated value of the notes is likely lower than the issuance price of the note to investors because issuers include the costs for selling, structuring and/or hedging the exposure on the note in the initial price of their notes. After issuance, structured notes may not be re-sold on a daily basis and thus may be difficult to value given their complexity.

*Liquidity:* The ability to trade or sell structured notes in a secondary market is often very limited, as structured notes (other than exchange-traded notes known as ETNs) are not listed for trading on securities exchanges. As a result, the only potential buyer for a structured note may be the issuing financial institution's broker-dealer affiliate or the broker-dealer distributor of the structured note. In addition, issuers often specifically disclaim their intention to repurchase or make markets in the notes they issue. Clients should, therefore, be prepared to hold a structured note to its maturity date, or risk selling the note at a discount to its value at the time of sale.

*Credit risk:* Structured notes are unsecured debt obligations of the issuer, meaning that the issuer is obligated to make payments on the notes as promised. These promises, including any principal protection, are only as good as the financial health of the structured note issuer. If the structured note issuer defaults on these obligations, investors may lose some, or all, of the principal amount they invested in the structured notes as well as any other payments that may be due on the structured notes.

#### Alternative Investments

The performance of alternative investments can be volatile and may have limited liquidity. An investor could lose all or a portion of their investment. Such investments often have concentrated positions and investments that may carry higher risks. Client should only have a portion of their assets in these investments.

#### Closed-End Funds

Closed-end funds typically use a high degree of leverage. They may be diversified or non-diversified. Risks associated with closed-end fund investments include liquidity risk, credit risk, volatility and the risk of magnified losses resulting from the use of leverage. Additionally, closed-end funds may trade below their net asset value.

**Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. Investing in securities and other investments involve a risk of loss that each Client should understand and be willing to bear. Clients are reminded to discuss these risks with the Advisor.**

### **Item 9 – Disciplinary Information**

**There are no legal, regulatory or disciplinary events involving Bickling or its owner or management person[s].** Bickling values the trust Clients place in the Advisor. The Advisor encourages Clients to perform the requisite due diligence on any advisor or service provider that the Client engages. The backgrounds of the Advisor

or Advisory Persons are available on the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) by searching with the Advisor's firm name or CRD# 128544.

## **Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations**

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### Broker-Dealer Affiliation

Advisory Persons are also registered representatives of Purshe Kaplan Sterling ("PKS"). PKS is a registered broker-dealer (CRD No. 35747), member FINRA, SIPC. In one's separate capacity as a registered representative of PKS, the Advisory Person will implement securities transactions under PKS and not through Bickling. In such instances, the Advisory Person will receive commission-based compensation in connection with the purchase and sale of securities, including 12b-1 fees for the sale of investment company products. Compensation earned by the Advisory Person in one's capacity as a registered representative is separate and in addition to the Advisor's fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because the Advisory Person who is a registered representative has an incentive to effect securities transactions for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on the Client. Clients are not obligated to implement any recommendation provided by the Advisor nor Advisory Persons. Neither the Advisor nor Advisory Persons will earn ongoing investment advisory fees in connection with any products or services implemented in the Advisory Person's separate capacity as a registered representative.

### Insurance Agency Affiliations

Advisory Persons are also licensed as independent insurance professionals. These persons will earn commission-based compensation for selling insurance products, including insurance products they sell to Clients. Insurance commissions earned by these persons are separate and in addition to advisory fees. This practice presents a conflict of interest because persons providing investment advice on behalf of the Advisor who are insurance agents have an incentive to recommend insurance products to Clients for the purpose of generating commissions rather than solely based on Client needs. However, Clients are under no obligation, contractually or otherwise, to purchase insurance products through any person affiliated with the Advisor. Please see Item 10 – Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations.

### Use of Independent Managers

As noted in Item 4, the Advisor may implement all or a portion of a Client's investment portfolio with one or more Independent Managers. The Advisor does not receive any compensation nor does this present a material conflict of interest. The Advisor will only earn its investment advisory fee as described in Item 5.A.

## **Item 11 – Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading**

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### **A. Code of Ethics**

Bickling has implemented a Code of Ethics (the "Code") that defines the Advisor's fiduciary commitment to each Client. This Code applies to all persons associated with Bickling ("Supervised Persons"). The Code was developed to provide general ethical guidelines and specific instructions regarding the Advisor's duties to each Client. Bickling and its Supervised Persons owe a duty of loyalty, fairness and good faith towards each Client. It is the obligation of Bickling's Supervised Persons to adhere not only to the specific provisions of the Code, but also to the general principles that guide the Code. The Code covers a range of topics that address employee ethics and conflicts of interest. To request a copy of the Code, please contact the Advisor at (781) 862-9792.

### **B. Personal Trading with Material Interest**

Bickling allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Bickling does not act as principal in any transactions. In addition, the Advisor does not act as the general partner of a fund, or advise an investment company. Bickling does not have a material interest in any securities traded in Client accounts.

### **C. Personal Trading in Same Securities as Clients**

Bickling allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients. Owning the same securities that are recommended (purchase or sell) to Clients presents a conflict of interest that, as fiduciaries, must be disclosed to Clients and mitigated through policies and

procedures. As noted above, the Advisor has adopted the Code to address insider trading (material non-public information controls); gifts and entertainment; outside business activities and personal securities reporting. When trading for personal accounts, Supervised Persons have a conflict of interest if trading in the same securities. The fiduciary duty to act in the best interest of its Clients can be violated if personal trades are made with more advantageous terms than Client trades, or by trading based on material non-public information. This risk is mitigated by Bickling requiring reporting of personal securities trades by its Supervised Persons for review by the Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") or delegate by conducting a coordinated review of personal accounts and the accounts of the Clients. The Advisor has also adopted written policies and procedures to detect the misuse of material, non-public information.

#### **D. Personal Trading at Same Time as Client**

While Bickling allows Supervised Persons to purchase or sell the same securities that may be recommended to and purchased on behalf of Clients, such trades are typically aggregated with Client orders or traded afterwards. **At no time will Bickling, or any Supervised Person of Bickling, transact in any security to the detriment of any Client.**

### **Item 12 – Brokerage Practices**

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#### **A. Recommendation of Custodian[s]**

Bickling does not have discretionary authority to select the broker-dealer/custodian for custody and execution services. The Client will engage the broker-dealer/custodian (herein the "Custodian") to safeguard Client assets and authorize Bickling to direct trades to the Custodian as agreed upon in the investment advisory agreement. Further, Bickling does not have the discretionary authority to negotiate commissions on behalf of Clients on a trade-by-trade basis.

Where Bickling does not exercise discretion over the selection of the Custodian, it may recommend the Custodian to Clients for custody and execution services. Clients are not obligated to use the Custodian recommended by the Advisor and will not incur any extra fee or cost associated with using a custodian not recommended by Bickling. However, the Advisor may be limited in the services it can provide if the recommended Custodian is not engaged. Bickling may recommend the Custodian based on criteria such as, but not limited to, reasonableness of commissions charged to the Client, services made available to the Client, and its reputation and/or the location of the Custodian's offices.

Bickling will generally recommend that Clients establish their account[s] at either Fidelity Investments ("Fidelity"), Schwab Advisory Services ("Schwab"), or TD Ameritrade Institutional, a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), FINRA-registered broker-dealers and member SIPC. The Client selected Custodian will serve as the Client's "qualified custodian". Services provided by the designated custodian include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance and settlement of transactions. Bickling maintains an institutional relationship with Fidelity, Schwab, and TD Ameritrade, whereby the Advisor receives benefits from each custodian. Please see Item 14 below.

As registered representatives of PKS, the Advisor may be limited in using other broker-dealers/custodians as PKS must approve the use of any outside broker-dealer/custodian.

Following are additional details regarding the brokerage practices of the Advisor:

**1. Soft Dollars** - Soft dollars are revenue programs offered by broker-dealers/custodians whereby an advisor enters into an agreement to place security trades with a broker-dealer/custodian in exchange for research and other services. **Bickling does not participate in soft dollar programs sponsored or offered by any broker-dealer/custodian. However, the Advisor receives certain economic benefits from the Custodian. Please see Item 14 below.**

**2. Brokerage Referrals** - Bickling does not receive any compensation from any third party in connection with the recommendation for establishing an account.

**3. Directed Brokerage** - All Clients are serviced on a “directed brokerage basis”, where Bickling will place trades within the established account[s] at the Custodian designated by the Client. Further, all Client accounts are traded within their respective account[s]. The Advisor will not engage in any principal transactions (i.e., trade of any security from or to the Advisor's own account) or cross transactions with other Client accounts (i.e., purchase of a security into one Client account from another Client's account[s]). Bickling will not be obligated to select competitive bids on securities transactions and does not have an obligation to seek the lowest available transaction costs. These costs are determined by the Custodian.

## **B. Aggregating and Allocating Trades**

The primary objective in placing orders for the purchase and sale of securities for Client accounts is to obtain the most favorable net results taking into account such factors as 1) price, 2) size of the order, 3) difficulty of execution, 4) confidentiality and 5) skill required of the Custodian. Bickling will execute its transactions through the Custodian as authorized by the Client. Bickling may aggregate orders in a block trade or trades when securities are purchased or sold through the Custodian for multiple (discretionary) accounts in the same trading day. If a block trade cannot be executed in full at the same price or time, the securities actually purchased or sold by the close of each business day must be allocated in a manner that is consistent with the initial pre-allocation or other written statement. This must be done in a way that does not consistently advantage or disadvantage any particular Clients' accounts.

## **Item 13 – Review of Accounts**

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### **A. Frequency of Reviews**

Securities in Client accounts are monitored on a regular and continuous basis by Spencer Betts, Chief Compliance Officer and Investment Advisor Representatives of Bickling. Formal reviews are generally conducted at least annually or more frequently depending on the needs of the Client.

### **B. Causes for Reviews**

In addition to the investment monitoring noted in Item 13.A., each Client account shall be reviewed at least annually. Reviews may be conducted more frequently at the Client's request. Accounts may be reviewed as a result of major changes in economic conditions, known changes in the Client's financial situation, and/or large deposits or withdrawals in the Client's account[s]. The Client is encouraged to notify Bickling if changes occur in the Client's personal financial situation that might adversely affect the Client's investment plan. Additional reviews may be triggered by material market, economic or political events.

### **C. Review Reports**

The Client will receive brokerage statements no less than quarterly from the Custodian. These brokerage statements are sent directly from the Custodian to the Client. The Client may also establish electronic access to the Custodian's website so that the Client may view these reports and their account activity. Client brokerage statements will include all positions, transactions and fees relating to the Client's account[s]. The Advisor may also provide Clients with periodic reports regarding their holdings, allocations, and performance.

## **Item 14 – Client Referrals and Other Compensation**

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### **A. Compensation Received by Bickling**

Bickling may refer Clients to various unaffiliated, non-advisory professionals (e.g. attorneys, accountants, estate planners) to provide certain financial services necessary to meet the goals of its Clients. Likewise, Bickling may receive non-compensated referrals of new Clients from various third-parties.

### Participation in Institutional Advisor Platform

Bickling has established institutional relationship with Fidelity to assist the Advisor in managing Client account[s]. The Advisor receives access to software and related support as part of its relationship with Fidelity. The software and related systems support may benefit the Advisor, but not its Clients directly. In fulfilling its duties to its Clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits from a Custodian creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Advisor's recommendation of the Custodian over one that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services. Additionally, Bickling has received financial support from Fidelity to assist the Advisor in the transition to

Fidelity. The following benefits are also received from Fidelity: reimbursement to Clients for transfer costs to the platform/custodian; financing services; receipt of duplicate Client confirmations and bundled duplicate statements; access to a trading desk that exclusively services its institutional participants; access to block trading which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts; and access to an electronic communication network for Client order entry and account information.

Bickling has established an institutional relationship with Schwab through its "Schwab Advisor Services" unit, a division of Schwab dedicated to serving independent advisory firms like Bickling. As a registered investment advisor participating on the Schwab Advisor Services platform, Bickling receives access to software and related support without cost because the Advisor renders investment management services to Clients that maintain assets at Schwab. Services provided by Schwab Advisor Services benefit the Advisor and many, but not all services provided by Schwab will benefit Clients. In fulfilling its duties to its Clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its Clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits from a custodian creates a conflict of interest since these benefits may influence the Advisor's recommendation of this custodian over one that does not furnish similar software, systems support, or services.

*Services that Benefit the Client* – Schwab's institutional brokerage services include access to a broad range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client's funds and securities. Through Schwab, the Advisor may be able to access certain investments and asset classes that the Client would not be able to obtain directly or through other sources. Further, the Advisor may be able to invest in certain mutual funds and other investments without having to adhere to investment minimums that might be required if the Client were to directly access the investments.

*Services that May Indirectly Benefit the Client* – Schwab provides participating advisors with access to technology, research, discounts and other services. In addition, the Advisor receives duplicate statements for Client accounts, the ability to deduct advisory fees, trading tools, and back office support services as part of its relationship with Schwab. These services are intended to assist the Advisor in effectively managing accounts for its Clients, but may not directly benefit all Clients.

*Services that May Only Benefit the Advisor* – Schwab also offers other services to Bickling that may not benefit the Client, including: educational conferences and events, financial start-up support, consulting services and discounts for various service providers. Access to these services creates a financial incentive for the Advisor to recommend Schwab, which results in a conflict of interest. Bickling believes, however, that the selection of Schwab as Custodian is in the best interests of its Clients.

As disclosed under Item 12, above, the Advisor participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and the Advisor may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between the Advisor's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its Clients, although the Advisor receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving the Advisor participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to the Advisor by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by the Advisor's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit the Advisor but may not benefit its Client accounts. These products or services may assist the Advisor in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help the Advisor manage and further develop its business enterprise. The benefits received by the Advisor or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, the Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first. Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic

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[www.bickling.com](http://www.bickling.com)

benefits by the Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

#### **B. Client Referrals from Solicitors**

If a Client is introduced to Bickling by either an unaffiliated party or by a Bickling affiliate, Bickling may pay that solicitor a referral fee in accordance with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, and any corresponding state securities law requirements. Any such referral fee shall be paid solely from the investment management fees earned by Bickling, and shall not result in any additional charge to the Client.

#### **Item 15 – Custody**

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Bickling does not accept or maintain custody of any Client accounts, except for the authorized deduction of the Advisor's fees. All Clients must place their assets with a "qualified custodian". Clients are required to engage the Custodian to retain their funds and securities and direct Bickling to utilize that Custodian for the Client's security transactions. Clients should review statements provided by the Custodian and compare to any reports provided by Bickling to ensure accuracy, as the Custodian does not perform this review. For more information about custodians and brokerage practices, see Item 12 – Brokerage Practices.

If the Client gives the Advisor authority to move money from one account to another account, the Advisor may have custody of those assets. In order to avoid additional regulatory requirements, the Custodian and the Advisor have adopted safeguards to ensure that the money movements are completed in accordance with the Client's instructions.

#### **Item 16 – Investment Discretion**

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Bickling generally has discretion over the selection and amount of securities to be bought or sold in Client accounts without obtaining prior consent or approval from the Client. However, these purchases or sales may be subject to specified investment objectives, guidelines, or limitations previously set forth by the Client and agreed to by Bickling. Discretionary authority will only be authorized upon full disclosure to the Client. The granting of such authority will be evidenced by the Client's execution of an investment advisory agreement containing all applicable limitations to such authority. All discretionary trades made by Bickling will be in accordance with each Client's investment objectives and goals.

#### **Item 17 – Voting Client Securities**

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Bickling does not accept proxy-voting responsibility for any Client. Clients will receive proxy statements directly from the Custodian. The Advisor will assist in answering questions relating to proxies, however, the Client retains the sole responsibility for proxy decisions and voting.

#### **Item 18 – Financial Information**

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Neither Bickling, nor its management, have any adverse financial situations that would reasonably impair the ability of Bickling to meet all obligations to its Clients. Neither Bickling, nor any of its Advisory Persons, have been subject to a bankruptcy or financial compromise. Bickling is not required to deliver a balance sheet along with this Disclosure Brochure as the Advisor does not collect advance fees of \$1,200 or more for services to be performed six months or more in the future.

## Privacy Policy

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Effective: May 21, 2021

### Our Commitment to You

Bickling Financial Services, Inc. ("Bickling" or the "Advisor") is committed to safeguarding the use of personal information of our Clients (also referred to as "you" and "your") that we obtain as your Investment Advisor, as described here in our Privacy Policy ("Policy").

Our relationship with you is our most important asset. We understand that you have entrusted us with your private information, and we do everything that we can to maintain that trust. Bickling (also referred to as "we", "our" and "us") protects the security and confidentiality of the personal information we have and implements controls to ensure that such information is used for proper business purposes in connection with the management or servicing of our relationship with you.

Bickling does not sell your non-public personal information to anyone. Nor do we provide such information to others except for discrete and reasonable business purposes in connection with the servicing and management of our relationship with you, as discussed below.

Details of our approach to privacy and how your personal non-public information is collected and used are set forth in this Policy.

### Why you need to know?

Registered Investment Advisors ("RIAs") must share some of your personal information in the course of servicing your account. Federal and State laws give you the right to limit some of this sharing and require RIAs to disclose how we collect, share, and protect your personal information.

### What information do we collect from you?

Driver's license number	Date of birth
Social security or taxpayer identification number	Assets and liabilities
Name, address and phone number[s]	Income and expenses
E-mail address[es]	Investment activity
Account information (including other institutions)	Investment experience and goals

### What Information do we collect from other sources?

Custody, brokerage and advisory agreements	Account applications and forms
Other advisory agreements and legal documents	Investment questionnaires and suitability documents
Transactional information with us or others	Other information needed to service account

### How do we protect your information?

To safeguard your personal information from unauthorized access and use we maintain physical, procedural and electronic security measures. These include such safeguards as secure passwords, encrypted file storage and a secure office environment. Our technology vendors provide security and access control over personal information and have policies over the transmission of data. Our associates are trained on their responsibilities to protect Client's personal information.

We require third parties that assist in providing our services to you to protect the personal information they receive from us.

## How do we share your information?

An RIA shares Client personal information to effectively implement its services. In the section below, we list some reasons we may share your personal information.

Basis For Sharing	Do we share?	Can you limit?
<b>Servicing our Clients</b> We may share non-public personal information with non-affiliated third parties (such as administrators, brokers, custodians, regulators, credit agencies, other financial institutions) as necessary for us to provide agreed upon services to you, consistent with applicable law, including but not limited to: processing transactions; general account maintenance; responding to regulators or legal investigations; and credit reporting. We share Client information with Pursche Kaplan Sterling Investments ("PKS"). This sharing is due to the oversight PKS has over Supervised Persons of the Advisor. You may also contact us at any time for a copy of the PKS Privacy Policy.	Yes	No
<b>Marketing Purposes</b> Bickling does not disclose, and does not intend to disclose, personal information with non-affiliated third parties to offer you services. Certain laws may give us the right to share your personal information with financial institutions where you are a customer and where Bickling or the client has a formal agreement with the financial institution. <b>We will only share information for purposes of servicing your accounts, not for marketing purposes.</b>	No	Not Shared
<b>Authorized Users</b> Your non-public personal information may be disclosed to you and persons that we believe to be your authorized agent[s] or representative[s].	Yes	Yes
<b>Information About Former Clients</b> Bickling does not disclose and does not intend to disclose, non-public personal information to non-affiliated third parties with respect to persons who are no longer our Clients.	No	Not Shared

## State-specific Regulations

California	In response to a California law, to be conservative, we assume accounts with California addresses do not want us to disclose personal information about you to non-affiliated third parties, except as permitted by California law. We also limit the sharing of personal information about you with our affiliates to ensure compliance with California privacy laws.
Massachusetts	In response to Massachusetts law, the Client must "opt-in" to share non-public personal information with non-affiliated third parties before any personal information is disclosed. Client opt-in is obtained through the Client's execution of authorization forms provided by the third parties, by executing an Information Sharing Authorization Form, or by other written consent by the Client, as appropriate and consistent with applicable laws and regulations.
Vermont	In response to a Vermont regulation, if we disclose personal information about you to non-affiliated third parties, we will only disclose your name, address, other contract information, and general information about our experience with you.

## Changes to our Privacy Policy

We will send you a copy of this Policy annually for as long as you maintain an ongoing relationship with us.

Periodically we may revise this Policy and will provide you with a revised Policy if the changes materially alter the previous Privacy Policy. We will not, however, revise our Privacy Policy to permit the sharing of non-public personal information other than as described in this notice unless we first notify you and provide you with an opportunity to prevent the information sharing.

## Any Questions?

You may ask questions or voice any concerns, as well as obtain a copy of our current Privacy Policy by contacting us at (781) 862-9792.