

# SIMPLE IRA APPLICATION

## (Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees)

### WHEN TO USE THIS FORM

Use this form when you want to open a Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) with ETC Brokerage as custodian of your SIMPLE IRA. By executing this form, you will be opening a custodial account with ETC Brokerage Services.

**To establish a SIMPLE IRA plan, you must:**

- Have a business with 100 or fewer employees
- Cannot have any other retirement plan

### FEES

Refer to ETC Brokerage Services Client Fee Schedule

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For assistance, please contact a Customer Service Representative:

**TOLL FREE:**  
877-819-8918

### IMPORTANT!

ETC Brokerage Services does not investigate, sponsor, or endorse any investment product. You assume sole responsibility for the success or failure of your investments. You are responsible for directing the investment of assets in your account. ETC Brokerage Services does not provide any investment advice, or recommend or evaluate the merits or suitability of any investment.

*If ETC Brokerage's services were suggested by a financial representative, such person is not an agent, employee, representative, or affiliate of ETC Brokerage. ETC Brokerage is not responsible for and is not bound by any representations, warranties, statements or agreements made by any financial representative.*

### INSTRUCTIONS & GUIDELINES!

A SIMPLE IRA plan is a Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees. Because this is a simplified plan, the administrative costs should be lower than for other, more complex plans. Under a SIMPLE IRA plan, employees and employers make contributions to traditional IRAs set up for employees (including self-employed individuals), subject to certain limits. It is ideally suited as a start-up retirement saving plan for small employers who do not currently sponsor a retirement plan.

If your employer's SIMPLE plan permits you to select your own financial institution to serve as custodian of your SIMPLE IRA and your employer has not completed our **SIMPLE Retirement Plan Adoption Agreement**, then your employer must complete the **IRS Form 5304-SIMPLE (Non-DFI)**. This form should be included with your **SIMPLE IRA Adoption Agreement** when mailed to ETC Brokerage Services. See the **Fee Schedule** for complete details. You may fund your account through a contribution, transfer, or rollover.

- If you are funding by a transfer, please include the completed **Account Transfer Form** and a copy of a recent statement from the transferring account.
- If you are funding by a rollover, please ensure that your rollover is completed within 60 days of the time you took the distribution in order to avoid any taxes or penalties.

### SUBMISSION OPTIONS

**OVERNIGHT:**  
ETC Brokerage Services  
1 Equity Way  
Westlake, OH 44145

**REGULAR MAIL:**  
ETC Brokerage Services  
P. O. Box 451249  
Westlake, OH 44145

**INVESTMENT PRODUCTS: NOT FDIC INSURED - NO BANK GUARANTEE - MAY LOSE VALUE**

This completed Account Application instructs ETC Brokerage Services, LLC ("ETC Brokerage") and Equity Trust Company to open your self-directed custodial retirement account and rely on your third-party representative appointment. Once opened, ETC Brokerage serves as the directed broker-dealer custodian for your account and Equity Trust Company is the directed trustee. They are not affiliated with your third-party representative and will take your representative's direction. ETC Brokerage and Equity Trust Company do not provide legal, tax, or investment advice.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT:**

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, federal law requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each person who opens account.

What this means for you: When opening an account, we will ask for your name, address, date of birth and other information that will allow us to identify you. We may ask for a copy of your driver's license or other identifying documents. We may also utilize a third-party information provider for verification purposes.

### 1. TYPE OF ACCOUNT

IRA:  SIMPLE

Special Instructions:

### 2. ACCOUNT OWNER (OR AUTHORIZED PERSONS) INFORMATION

ACCOUNT OWNER'S FIRST NAME		ACCOUNT OWNER'S MIDDLE NAME		ACCOUNT OWNER'S LAST NAME	
PHYSICAL STREET ADDRESS [Required (No P.O. BOX)]					
CITY			STATE		ZIP CODE
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE - P.O. BOX MAY BE USED)					
CITY			STATE		ZIP CODE
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		DATE OF BIRTH		COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: <input type="checkbox"/> USA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____	
EMAIL ADDRESS <sup>1</sup> (Note - this field is required in the event you elect to receive Account documents electronically - See Section 11)					
PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER			SECONDARY PHONE NUMBER		
MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED					
<input type="checkbox"/> Check box if the account owner is a minor (Please also complete and submit the Adult/Guardian worksheet)					

### 3. USA PATRIOT ACT INFORMATION

(Required by Federal Law) All applicants must provide the information below.

<b>ACCOUNT OWNER:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Driver's License <input type="checkbox"/> Passport <input type="checkbox"/> State ID <input type="checkbox"/> Other Government-issued ID					
PLACE/COUNTRY OF ISSUANCE		ID NUMBER		ISSUE DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)	
EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)					
IF YOU HAVE BEEN AT YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS FOR LESS THAN SIX MONTHS, PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PREVIOUS ADDRESS:					
ADDRESS			CITY		STATE
ZIP CODE					

#### 4. TRUSTED CONTACT PERSON

By choosing to provide information about a trusted contact person, you authorize us to contact the trusted contact person listed below and disclose information about your account to that person in the following circumstances: to address possible financial exploitation, to confirm the specifics of your current contact information, health status, or the identity of any legal guardian, executor, trustee or holder of a power of attorney, or as otherwise permitted by FINRA Rule 2165 (Financial Exploitation of Specified Adults). No instructions from a trusted contact person will be accepted to effect transactions and/or change information related to the account.

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE INITIAL	LAST NAME	RELATIONSHIP	
ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
HOME PHONE	CELL PHONE	WORK PHONE	EMAIL ADDRESS	

None

#### 5. EQUITY DIVIDEND PAYMENT STANDING INSTRUCTION

Select how equity (stock and ETF) dividends are paid to your account. Choose one:  Dividends paid in cash  Dividends reinvested\*\*

**Note:** Stock and ETF dividends will default to be paid to Cash unless you select Reinvested above.

\*\* Reinvestment option may not be available for certain securities. Consult with your Designated Representative for reinvestment availability.

#### 6. ACCOUNT ~~UBX71 GHC85B-B: CFA5HCB~~

ACCOUNT INFORMATION:		CUSTODIAN INFORMATION:
DATE OF INITIAL DEPOSIT	/ /	<i>Notice of revocation must be delivered or mailed to:</i> NAME: ETC Brokerage Services ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 451249 WESTLAKE, OH 44145 PHONE: 877-819-8918 FAX: 440-365-1447
EFFECTIVE DEFERRAL AMOUNT	\$	
EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	\$	
ROLLOVER FROM SIMPLE IRA	\$	
TRANSFER FROM SIMPLE IRA	\$	
TRANSFER RECEIVED FROM		<b>SELECT OPTION: (You must select an option below.)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> DFI (Employer <b>must</b> complete the <b>5305-SIMPLE</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> NON-DFI (Employer <b>must</b> complete the <b>5304-SIMPLE</b> )
EMPLOYER NAME (REQUIRED)		

**7" 69B9: 7-5 FM-B: CFA5HCB**

The following individual(s) or entity(ies) shall be my primary and/or contingent beneficiary(ies). If neither primary nor contingent is indicated, the individual or entity will be deemed to be a primary beneficiary. If more than one primary beneficiary is designated and no distribution percentages are indicated, the beneficiaries will be deemed to own equal share percentages in the SIMPLE IRA. Multiple contingent beneficiaries with no share percentage indicated will also be deemed to share equally. Unless otherwise indicated, the beneficiary and percentage designations shall apply to both SIMPLE IRAs and brokerage accounts in the same manner.

If any primary or contingent beneficiary dies before I do, his or her interest and the interest of his or her heirs shall terminate completely, and the percentage share of any remaining beneficiary(ies) shall be increased on a prorata basis. If no primary beneficiary(ies) survives me, the contingent beneficiary(ies) shall acquire the designated share of my SIMPLE IRA and brokerage account.

Name (first, middle, last)	Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)	Social Security Number	Country(ies) of Citizenship	Relationship	Primary or Contingent	Per Stirpes	Percentage
1.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
2.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
3.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
4.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
5.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
6.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	
7.					<b>W</b> Primary <b>W</b> Contingent	<b>W</b> Yes Per Stirpes	

This section should be reviewed if the residence of the account holder is located in a community or marital property state<sup>2</sup> and the account holder is married. Due to the important tax consequences of giving up one's community property interest, individuals signing this section should consult with a competent tax or legal advisor.

**CURRENT MARITAL STATUS:**  I am not married – I understand that if I become married in the future, I must complete a new Designation of Beneficiary form.  
 I am married – I understand that if I choose to designate a primary beneficiary other than my spouse, my spouse must sign below.

**CONSENT OF SPOUSE:** I am the spouse of the aforementioned account holder. I acknowledge that I have received a fair and reasonable disclosure of my spouse's property and financial obligations. Due to the important tax consequences of giving up my interest in these accounts, I have been advised to see a tax professional.

I hereby give the account holder any interest I have in the funds or property deposited in these accounts and consent to the beneficiary designation(s) indicated above. I assume full responsibility for any adverse consequences that may result. No tax or legal advice was given to me by the Custodian.

SIGNATURE OF SPOUSE	DATE
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8" 7CAD@5 B79 EI 9GHCBGfF9EI F98t

**A. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION:**

Employed     Unemployed     Retired     Other \_\_\_\_\_

<b>If Employed, complete the following information:</b>		OCCUPATION	
EMPLOYER NAME		ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
<b>If Unemployed/Retired, complete the following information:</b>		SOURCE OF INCOME	

**B. AFFILIATION INFORMATION:**

- Are you, or your spouse, or any member of your immediate families living in the same household, including parents, in-laws, siblings, and dependents licensed, employed by, or associated with a broker-dealer firm, FINRA or a financial services regulator, securities exchange, or member of a securities exchange. If this entity requires its approval for you to open this account, please provide a copy of the required authorization letter (with this form)
 

Yes     No    If yes, please specify below:
- Are you, or your spouse, or any member of your immediate families living in the same household, including parents, in-laws, siblings, and dependents, a member of the board of directors (or similar governing body), 10% shareholder, or policy-making officer of a publicly traded company.
 

Yes     No    Specify the company name, ticker symbol, address, city, and state:
- Are you, your spouse, a close associate, or any member of your immediate family a current or former politically exposed person or public official (including but not limited to U.S. & foreign individuals who serve/d in a governmental role, high ranking officer in the armed forces or financial institution, etc.)
 

Yes     No    If yes, please provide that Person's name, relevant organization and years of service:

**C. FUNDING:**

What best describes the initial source of funds for this account? (Check any that apply)

- Employment/Wages     Retirement Funds     Gift     Savings     Transfer  
 Inheritance/Trust     Investments     Unemployment/Disability     Legal Settlement     Rollover  
 Lottery/Gaming     Spousal/Parental Support     Other (describe source of funds): \_\_\_\_\_

What is the purpose and expected use of the account? (choose only one)

- Current Income (Dividends and Interest Payments)     Major Purchase / Expense     Healthcare / Long Term Care     Learning How to Invest  
 Wealth Accumulation / Investment     Education Planning     Charitable (Donations or Philanthropic Objectives)  
 Estate / Legacy Planning     Retirement     Active / Day Trading

**9. INVESTOR PROFILE**

Net Worth (Excluding Primary Residence)		Liquid Net Worth (Cash, Stocks, etc.)		Gross Annual Income	
<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500,001-\$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001-\$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001 - \$500,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,001-\$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$3,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,001-\$ 50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,001-\$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$3,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$3,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 -\$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$1,000,000
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$200,000	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$3,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$200,000	

**10. REPRESENTATIVE(S) AND FIRM(S) DESIGNATION AND AUTHORIZATION**

Please complete the information and sign below in order to accept the following terms and conditions and authorize your designated investment advisor, broker-dealer, registered representative, financial advisor, money manager or financial planner (hereinafter "Representative/Firm(s)") as your Representative /Firm(s) on your brokerage account. Before you appoint a Representative/Firm(s) on your brokerage account, you should understand that your Representative/Firm(s):

- are authorized to give investment directions on your behalf to ETC Brokerage and its affiliates,
- are authorized to charge investment management fees to your account,
- will have unlimited access to your account information,
- will receive copies of your brokerage account statements and other correspondence,
- is your agent and not an agent of ETC Brokerage or any of its affiliates, and
- will have the authority to direct the investment activities of your account.

By my signature below, I choose to appoint the person(s) and firm(s) shown below as my Representative/Firm(s) on my brokerage account ("Account") for the purpose of communicating investment directions to ETC Brokerage and receiving information on my Account, in accordance with this Section and the ETC Brokerage Account Owner Agreement and Addendums (collectively, "Agreement"). I understand that I am granting exclusive authority to my Representative/Firm(s) to direct the investment activities in my Account.

I further acknowledge and agree that:

1. I understand that my Representative/Firm(s) are my authorized agent and are not in any way an agent, affiliate, partner, employee, or representative of ETC Brokerage.
2. I have selected my Representative/Firm(s) based on criteria I deem acceptable and appropriate for my investment needs without any advice, guidance or recommendation from ETC Brokerage, its affiliates or its and their respective officers, directors, members and employees.
3. I understand that ETC Brokerage has not made and will not make any investigation with respect to my Representative/Firm(s), nor does ETC Brokerage compensate my Representative/Firm(s) in any manner.
4. I understand that I may appoint and/or remove my Representative/Firm(s) at any time by delivering my written notice on a form acceptable to ETC Brokerage. I understand that any attempt to appoint and/or remove my Representative/Firm(s) through any method other than a form acceptable to ETC Brokerage shall be null and void and ETC Brokerage will not take any action. If I remove my Representative/Firm(s), I understand that such removal shall not have the effect of canceling any notice, instruction, direction or approval received by ETC Brokerage from my removed Representative/Firm(s) before receiving my notice of removal.
5. I instruct ETC Brokerage to pay for or receive payments in connection with security or other investment transactions communicated by my Representative/Firm(s), as indicated by trade confirmations or other requests for payment received by ETC Brokerage.
6. I understand that it is solely my responsibility to direct my Representative/Firm(s) to execute trades or other investments for my Account, and all instructions, directions, and/or confirmations received from my Representative/Firm(s) and its firm and/or any agent(s) thereof, whether written or oral, shall be assumed by ETC Brokerage to have been authorized by me. Such instructions may be submitted by any methodology acceptable to ETC Brokerage, such as telephone or other secured electronic approved means.
7. I affirm that my Representative/Firm(s), including its agents, employees, firm and any associated person thereof, is not a sponsor of or otherwise affiliated with any investment in my Account. I agree that it is my responsibility to review my investments in my Account to confirm compliance with this requirement and to remove my Representative/Firm(s) from my Account in the event of non-compliance.
8. Any communication or notices provided by my Representative/Firm(s) or by ETC Brokerage shall be deemed to be provided to me personally. My Representative/Firm(s) are authorized to act for me and on my behalf in the same manner and with the same force and effect as I might or could do with respect to such transactions and investments as well as with respect to all transactions and actions necessary and incidental to such authorization, including delivery of securities and/or cash from my Account to settle any investment transactions. If I have executed an ETC Brokerage Services Option Agreement, my Representative/Firm(s) are specifically authorized to effect options transactions with respect to my Account. My Representative/Firm(s) shall also be authorized to receive duplicate statements and trade confirmations with respect to the brokerage transactions executed on behalf of my Account.
9. I authorize ETC Brokerage to accept all investment instructions from my Representative/Firm(s) and acknowledge that more than one party may be authorized by me to request purchases, redemptions and exchanges on my Account. I acknowledge that, if instructions to purchase, redeem or transfer shares are submitted by multiple parties authorized to provide such instructions on the same day or for the same shares, ETC Brokerage is authorized to act on the instructions of either authorized party without having to call me or either party to confirm or clarify the instructions.
10. Subject to my appointment of a Representative and Firm(s), I understand that I have the sole authority, responsibility and discretion, fully and completely, to select and to direct the investment of all assets in my Account. I accept full responsibility for the success or failure of any selection made. In addition, it is my sole responsibility to manage the investment(s) held within my Account and to monitor the performance and actions of my designated Representative and Firm(s), including my Representative's and Firm(s)'s compliance with applicable laws, rules and regulations. I agree that I will remove my Representative and Firm(s) from my Account in the event of any such non-compliance. I understand that ETC Brokerage is in no way responsible for monitoring the performance of my designated Representative/Firm(s) or any investment held within my Account. Further, ETC Brokerage has no responsibility to question any investment directions given by me or my designated Representative/Firm(s), regardless of the nature of the investment. Neither ETC Brokerage nor any of its affiliates render investment advice, or guarantees my Account from loss or depreciation.
11. ETC Brokerage does not have responsibility for investment decisions made by my Representative/Firm(s) and/or me and ETC Brokerage will not be liable for any losses attributable to investments, including, without limitation, any tax consequences relating thereto.
12. I acknowledge that my Representative/Firm(s) has disclosed to me such Representative/Firm's fees. In the event of termination of the service agreement between ETC Brokerage and my Representative/Firm(s), ETC Brokerage's custodial fees will continue to be charged to my Account directly until such time as I terminate my Account.
13. I hereby authorize ETC Brokerage to pay my Representative/Firm(s)'s fees from my Account. I understand and agree that ETC Brokerage has no responsibility or duty to verify the validity or calculation of such fees. All claims or disputes regarding fees owed and/or paid to my Representative/Firm(s) are between my Representative/Firm(s) and me and my sole remedy is against the Representative/Firm(s). I hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless ETC Brokerage and its affiliates and each of its and their directors, officers and employees from any and all liabilities and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) which may be incurred by ETC Brokerage as a result of its reliance on this fee payment authorization.
14. Any Representative/Firm(s) name appearing on ETC Brokerage's written materials, including logos, is solely for the purpose of identification and clarification, and does not denote any affiliation or partnership.

**10. REPRESENTATIVE(S) AND FIRM(S) DESIGNATION AND AUTHORIZATION continued**

15. **Cost Basis:** I authorize ETC Brokerage to use the following cost basis methods on tax reporting unless my Representative/Firm(s) request another method.

- Average Cost - Mutual Funds
- First In First Out - Equities, ETFs, Fixed Income and other securities

16. Without limitation, I agree to indemnify, defend and hold ETC Brokerage, its affiliates and each of its and their directors, officers, employees and agents harmless for any loss or breach of any kind which may result from any action or inaction that they take or omit in good faith in accordance with, and in its reliance upon, any certificate, notice, confirmation, instruction, or other written or oral (if so elected) communication purporting to have been delivered at my direction on behalf of my account by my Representative/Firm(s) and/or agents thereof.

ACCOUNT OWNER'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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Pursuant to the terms of my ETC Brokerage SIMPLE Custodial Account Agreement and Disclosure Statement and ETC Brokerage Customer Agreement, I authorize the Representative and Firm(s) named below to execute trades and other investment transactions on my behalf for the benefit of both my custodial account and brokerage account. I understand that "Representative" as herein defined shall include authorized person(s) of the Representative's firm as specifically identified by such Representative in writing.

REPRESENTATIVE(S)'S NAME	REPRESENTATIVE LICENSE NUMBER (if applicable)
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REPRESENTATIVE'S FIRM
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PHONE NUMBER	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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ADVISORY FIRM OR BROKER DEALER'S NAME
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MONEY MANAGEMENT/INVESTMENT ADVISORY FIRM (IF APPLICABLE)
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**THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE (OR MONEY MANAGER, IF APPLICABLE)**

I, **THE UNDERSIGNED, ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE** that I have read and agree to all the provisions of this authorization provision. I hereby acknowledge my obligations hereunder. I agree to carry out my actions with respect to this authorization in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless ETC Brokerage Services, its affiliates and their directors, officers, employees, registered representatives, associated persons and agents from and against any and all liabilities, claims, actions, losses, expenses and costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to my actions or omissions and those of my firm and its authorized persons with respect to the performance as designated Representative for the Account Owner, including without limitation, ETC Brokerage Services' compliance with any trading instructions given by me and/or authorized persons of my firm as the designated Representative for the Account Owner.

SIGNATURE OF DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE (OR MONEY MANAGER, IF APPLICABLE)	DATE
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ELECTRONIC REPRESENTATIVE ATTESTATION

DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME	DATE
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**11. ELECTRONIC DELIVERY OF ACCOUNT DOCUMENTS & E-SIGN CONSENT**

I have received, read, and understand the E-Sign Disclosure and Consent, attached to the Account Owner Agreement (the "ESDC"). Upon reviewing that disclosure, I consent to the following:

- Yes, I authorize electronic delivery of communications, documents, and other information relative to my brokerage account and to utilize, at my discretion, electronic signature for signing forms.
- No, I would like paper copies mailed to me. I understand and agree that additional fees will apply for paper delivery. Unless I otherwise consent or direct, I would like to sign paper forms.

\*\* by opting to electronically sign any form, you agree to the Intent to Use Electronic Signatures in the ESDC.

In order to obtain such Account information electronically, I must maintain a **valid e-mail address** with ETC Brokerage and have access to a computer with internet service to retrieve the documents through a secure account login. By consenting to e-delivery of documents, I agree to receive any or all of the above-listed communications and statements through e-delivery. I will only receive an e-mail notification with regard to an equity security or mutual fund if I hold a position in such asset(s) as of the record date for a particular shareholder communication and the materials are made available electronically by the issuer or third party. If an issuer or third party does not make shareholder materials available electronically, I will receive paper documents via U. S. mail at no additional charge to me.

E-mail notification and electronic documents may be made available in PDF format. If I use spam-blocking software, I will update my settings to accept e-mail from ETC Brokerage. Electronic documents may be viewed electronically via the Web and printed with a local printer. They may also be saved to a local hard drive. In order to view, print, save, store or download e-mail notifications and/or electronic documents, the latest version of a web browser with Java Script enabled will be required.

**Materials Issued by Third Parties.** The content of the shareholder materials or any materials from other parties provided to me is the responsibility of the issuing corporation, mutual fund, securities issuer or other third party who is making those materials available. ETC Brokerage is not responsible for the content of electronic documents which were not drafted or generated by it. In addition, ETC Brokerage will not interpret or give any advice or opinion on any materials not drafted or generated by it.

**Paper Delivery.** I may request a paper version of any document at any time by calling: (877) 819-8918. A fee may apply for each paper copy of any document I request.

**Valid E-Mail Address.** I must provide a valid e-mail address and any subsequent updates thereto to ETC Brokerage in order to obtain e-delivery of such documents. I agree to immediately notify ETC Brokerage of any change in my e-mail address that I have provided. I may provide such notification by either:

- (i) E-mail at ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com; or
- (ii) In writing to P. O. Box 451249, Westlake, OH 44145.

Communications sent by ETC Brokerage to the e-mail address I provide shall, until notice of a different address is received by ETC Brokerage, be deemed to have been personally delivered to me whether actually received or not.

**Notices.** If a message to my e-mail address is returned due to an unsuccessful delivery, I will receive a written notice through the U.S. mail. The notice will state that my account communications are available online and I will be asked to provide an updated e-mail address. Upon a second failed attempt to e-mail me, ETC Brokerage will mail a second notice similar to the above. Concurrent with the second notice, ETC Brokerage will discontinue e-delivery and forward communications through the U.S. mail on a going forward basis and a quarterly paper statement fee (as set forth in the applicable fee schedule) may be charged to my account.

**Withdrawal.** I may withdraw my consent to e-delivery at any time either:

- (i) Via e-mail at ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com or
- (ii) In writing to P. O. Box 451249, Westlake, OH 44145.

Verbal instructions to withdraw my consent will not be effective. If I withdraw such consent, ETC Brokerage will resume mailing paper copies the month following that in which the next Account document or communication is generated and a quarterly paper statement fee (as set forth in the applicable fee schedule) may be charged to my Account.



**12. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR ACCOUNTS (Please Read Before Signing)**

The signature below acknowledges that I have received, read, understand and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this Account Application and the ETC Brokerage Account Owner Agreement.

- I acknowledge that the Account Owner Agreement explains the duties, limitations on duties, and the rights of ETC Brokerage and me (the "Account Owner").
- By signing this Application below, the Account Owner assumes complete responsibility for determining contribution eligibility and tax consequences of any and all contributions or distributions.
- I have appointed and designated a Representative/Firm(s) as indicated on this Application to manage the assets in my Account and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions applicable to such designation. All decisions relating to my investment or trading activity shall be made solely by me or my authorized Representative/Firm(s).
- I understand that within seven (7) days from the date that I open my Account, I may revoke this Application and close my custodial account without penalty by mailing or delivering a written notice to ETC Brokerage at the contact information provided under Withdrawal above.
- ETC Brokerage does not have any fiduciary responsibilities to me or my Account.
- I am fully responsible for the content and accuracy of all authorized instructions placed on my Account, and for all results and consequences of such instructions placed by me or my designated Representative/Firm(s).
- Order instructions are routed to ETC Brokerage and then to the marketplace as promptly as possible in view of prevailing market conditions. I acknowledge that there may be delays in the processing of orders related to the security being traded, market conditions, or discretionary order review procedures.
- Orders are delivered through ETC Brokerage to the appropriate market, market maker or electronic communications network for execution. Unless otherwise instructed, all securities transactions will clear through and be held in custody with ETC Brokerage. All securities transactions will be subject to ETC Brokerage trading rules and policies as well as those of the applicable exchange, market or electronic communications network where such securities are traded. All orders for securities transactions will be designated as "long".
- I agree that cash and available funds or equity must be in my Account prior to the execution and/or settlement of trades. In addition, ETC Brokerage will not extend funds or otherwise cover any deficiencies in my Account. Trading errors will occur as a result of any deficiencies. In the event that I or my designated Representative/Firm(s) determine to break a trade, for whatever reason, responsibility for any liability, claim, loss or diminution of value of my Account, including, but not limited to, any tax consequences relating thereto, will be borne by me and/or my Representative/Firm(s).

ETC Brokerage will not:

- i. act as a principal for any trades or make a market in any security or mutual fund;
- ii. solicit orders;
- iii. exercise discretion with respect to investment decisions on behalf of me or my Representative/Firm(s);
- iv. provide research or advice regarding securities;
- v. determine suitability as to the type and/or frequency of transactions in my Account;
- vi. provide any party or entity with advice regarding an investment strategy involving a security or securities, with investment recommendations or otherwise give investment, tax or legal advice;
- vii. monitor trading activity that occurs within the Account;
- viii. offer any proprietary investment products; or
- ix. participate as an underwriter or member of a selling group of any initial public offering. This document shall be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

This document may be amended from time to time by ETC Brokerage upon written notification to me, which amendment shall become effective 30 days after delivery of the notice of such amendment to my last known address, unless I object to such amendment in writing.

In order to establish and maintain an Account, I understand I must accept and agree to the terms of the Account Owner Agreement between me and ETC Brokerage, a copy of which will be separately provided.

**13. AUTOMATIC CASH SWEEP**

I understand that my Account participates in ETC Brokerage's Insured Deposit Program ("Program"), which automatically deposits uninvested cash from my Account into one of more FDIC-insured bank accounts. I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to the use of the Program and its terms and conditions located under "Important Documents & Agreements" at <https://etcbrokerage.com/conversion>.

## 14. SIGNATURES

### W-9 Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The Social Security Number or TIN on this form is the correct Taxpayer Identification Number for the Account Owner; and
2. The Account Owner is not subject to backup withholding because: (a) the Account Owner is exempt from backup withholding; (b) the Internal Service (IRS) has not notified the Account Owner that he/she/it is subject to backup withholding due to a failure to report interest and dividend income; or (c) the IRS has notified the Account Owner that he/she/it is no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. The Account Owner is a United States citizen or resident alien, or if the Account Owner is an entity, the entity is based in the United States.

The Internal Revenue Service does not require your consent to any provision of this document other than certificates required to avoid back-up withholding.

### PATRIOT Act Disclosure

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal laws (Section 326 of the USA Patriot Act of 2001) requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify and record information that identifies each individual or institution who opens an account or establishes a customer relationship with ETC Brokerage Services.

When opening an account, ETC Brokerage will ask for your name, address, date of birth and other information that will allow us to identify you. As appropriate, we ask for a copy of your driver's license or other identifying documents. The information gathered will only be shared with one or more parties in accordance with ETC Brokerage's Privacy Policy and its Privacy Notice.

This information may be compared to information obtained through third party sources, as permitted by law. If we cannot verify this information, your account may not be opened or it may be restricted and/or closed, and we will not be responsible for any losses nor damages including, but not limited to, lost opportunities, you may incur.

### Fee Schedule

Please obtain your ETC Brokerage Account's fee schedule from your Representative/Firm or you can contact us at 877-819-8918.

### Acknowledgement

By signing this Account Application and Account Owner Agreement, I affirm that I am of full legal age in the state of jurisdiction in which I reside and have the capacity to enter into this Account Application and Account Owner Agreement with ETC Brokerage. I further affirm that I have read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions of this Account Application, the Account Owner Agreement and any addendums attached to this Account Application or the Account Owner Agreement, including the authorization provision contained herein and the arbitration provision in the Account Owner Agreement. To the extent there is any conflict between any disclosures in this Application and the Account Owner Agreement, the Account Owner Agreement shall control

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS FORM BY FAX, E-MAIL OR US MAIL AS INDICATED ON THE COVER PAGE.

- I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the ETC Brokerage Client Relationship Summary (Form CRS);
- I acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the ETC Brokerage Privacy Notice, Account Owner Agreement, and any Addendums and Exhibits, including the Online Payment and Deposit Service Exhibit;
- I acknowledge that if I checked "yes" to Electronic Delivery, I consent to the E-Sign Disclosure and Consent;
- I acknowledge that I have read and understand the disclosures on the ETCB's website, located here: [www.etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures/](http://www.etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures/)

By signing this Application, I confirm that this Account will not hold or engage in transactions involving illegal or impermissible investments under New York or federal law while ETC Brokerage serves as my Account's broker-dealer.

ACCOUNT OWNER'S SIGNATURE (OR AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL'S) SIGNATURE	DATE
PRINTED NAME	

### EQUITY USE ONLY: APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY:

AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY	DATE
PRINCIPAL SIGNATURE, ETC BROKERAGE	DATE

**15. SIGNATURE - EQUITY TRUST COMPANY (DIRECTED TRUSTEE)**

**By submitting this Application, I appoint Equity Trust Company to serve as Trustee. Once my IRA account is opened, Equity Trust will serve in the role as trustee. By making the appointment, I agree to and acknowledge the following:**

1. I have read and understand the Individual Trust Agreement ("Trust Agreement"), Disclosure Statement, and Schedule of Trustee Fees, I agree to abide by the terms of the IRA documents listed above and confirm all information above is accurate.
2. I understand Equity Trust Company is not an investment advisor and does not supervise or control my investment representative. Equity Trust Company does not endorse any particular investment. I agree to use independent judgment in making my investment decisions.
3. I understand that Equity Trust does not conduct, and has not conducted, a due diligence review of any investment, the issuer or sponsor of such investment, or any officer, director, person, or entity affiliated with such investment. I further understand that Equity Trust does not review, and has not reviewed, the merits of any investment or account transaction or whether it is acceptable under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) or any other applicable laws, including securities laws.
4. I represent that I will obtain and read all pertinent information relating to my investments, as applicable (i.e. prospectus, annual reports). I understand that Equity Trust is not responsible for obtaining, providing or retaining this information.
5. I agree to consult with an attorney, tax advisor, and investment advisor to review the suitability of any investment I purchase in the self-directed account, if necessary.
6. I understand that certain transactions are prohibited under IRC 4975 and ERISA 406 and that I am responsible for ensuring that account investments or transactions do not constitute a prohibited transaction.
7. I understand that if an investment cannot be liquidated, it is my responsibility to ensure that I can satisfy any mandatory distribution requirements with other IRA investments.
8. I understand that Equity Trust is a non-depository trust company and will not hold negotiable certificates. I also understand that I cannot hold the certificates. I agree that, if an investment issues certificates, I will have established an account with a brokerage firm to hold the certificates and that I have verified with the brokerage firm that it can hold the certificates for this investment. I further agree that if I change brokerage firms it will be my responsibility to ensure the new firm can also hold the certificates and notify Equity Trust of the change.
9. I agree to pay all fees that may be charged by the brokerage firm or investment sponsor to liquidate and/or re-register the account in the event the Equity Trust resigns for any reason.  
I hereby agree to indemnify and hold Equity Trust and its respective officers, directors, employees, agents, affiliates, successors, and assigns, harmless from, and against, any and all claims, liabilities, penalties, costs or expenses (including, without limitation, attorney fees and court and legal costs) of any nature whatsoever arising directly or indirectly by reason of, or resulting from, the purchase of investment(s).
10. I understand that within seven (7) days from the date that I open my custodial account, I may revoke this Application and close my custodial account without penalty by mailing or delivering a written notice to ETC Brokerage.

ACCOUNT OWNER'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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## ETC Brokerage Services, LLC Client Relationship Summary – March 2, 2024

ETC Brokerage Services, LLC is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ, and it is important for you to understand the differences. This Client Relationship Summary provides details about our brokerage services, fees, and other important information.

Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at [Investor.gov/CRS](https://investor.gov/CRS) which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

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

We provide brokerage services to retail investors where they can buy and sell from a limited menu of products, such as publicly traded stocks, options, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds, and fixed income securities (bonds, U.S. Treasury obligations, and certificates of deposit). We act solely on your instructions or those from your designated financial representatives, who utilize our services to execute trades for you. You make the ultimate decision regarding the purchase or sale of investments. We do not have offices that you can visit to meet with financial professionals. We do not offer recommendations to retail investors. We do not monitor your investments. We do not determine whether transactions are meeting your investment goals. We do not impose account value or investment minimums to open or maintain a brokerage account with our firm, however, some mutual funds may have initial purchase minimums.

For additional information on our services, please refer to our website at <https://etcbrokerage.com/resources/> or to our Account Owner Agreement at <https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/forms.equitytrustcompany.info/ETCBrokerage/ETCB+Account+Owner+Agreement.pdf>

### CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask us or your financial professional:

***Given my financial situation, should I choose a brokerage 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?***

### What fees will I pay?

You will pay commissions for purchases and sales you decide to execute in your account, which we charge on a per transaction basis. The more trades you place, the more commissions we earn. This creates an incentive for ETC Brokerage to want you to trade more often. These commissions are separate from any fees or charges that your financial professional or investments may charge you. You may also pay fees for certain services that you request that we provide to you, such as fees for certain types of asset or securities transfers. If your account has margin capabilities, we collect a fee by way of charging you interest for borrowing money from us. For additional information, please refer to our fee schedule at <https://etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures/>.

***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.***

### CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask us or your financial professional:

***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 providing recommendations as my broker-dealer? How else does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?

**We do not provide recommendations.** The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts, as they can affect our services. Here are examples to help you understand what this means.

Our firm makes money based upon a percentage of the fees/costs paid by you to execute trades. These fees include transaction costs, margin interest costs, and other processing fees. The higher the number of transactions, the higher the charge to you.

Payment for Order Flow: We earn compensation for routing certain trade orders to third-party market centers and other broker-dealers, subject to our applicable best execution obligations. For more information, see your Account Owner Agreement.

Insured Deposit Program: If you enroll in our program where we can sweep the cash in your account to an FDIC-insured bank account, then we retain a portion of the interest earned through this program as our fee. If you choose not to participate in this program, then we will not earn this fee, but we would earn a fee if your cash is used, as permitted by regulations, to fund margin loans of other customers. We retain the difference between the margin interest rate we charge and the amount we pass to you.

For additional information, please refer to our website at <https://etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures/>.

### **CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask us or your financial professional:**

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

### **How do our financial professionals make money?**

Our financial professionals are compensated based on salary and bonus which are based on operational and service metrics and company performance. No compensation is tied to firm revenue, transactions, commissions, or any product sales.

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

Yes. Visit [Investor.gov/CRS](https://investor.gov/CRS) for a free and simple search tool to research our firm and financial professionals.

### **CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask us or your financial professional:**

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

### **Additional Information**

For additional information about us, please see our website at [etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures](https://etcbrokerage.com/form-crs-and-disclosures/). You may also call 877-403-0369 to request up to date information or a copy of this Client Relationship Summary.

### **CONVERSATION STARTERS: Ask us or your financial professional:**

***Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?***



# ETC BROKERAGE SERVICES, LLC'S ACCOUNT OWNER AGREEMENT

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## ACCOUNT OWNER AGREEMENT

**Please read this carefully and keep a copy for your records.**

### 1. Introduction

This agreement governs all brokerage accounts that you open with ETC Brokerage Services, LLC (referred to in this document as “ETCB”, “we”, “us” or “our”) and all transactions conducted in your accounts. This agreement, along with any schedules, exhibits, amendments, appendices, addendums, notices, and disclosures that are attached to and/or referenced in this agreement, are collectively referred to as the “Agreement”. By opening an Account (as defined below) with us, you acknowledge and agree that (a) you have received, have read and understand this Agreement and agree to be bound by its terms, which include, among others, a **pre-dispute arbitration provision**, and (b) your ETCB account is a self-directed brokerage account, and you will not receive any advice or guidance from ETCB. Please note that fees and other information provided in this Agreement are subject to change.

### 2. Interpretation

For purposes of this Agreement: (a) the words “include,” “includes” and “including” are deemed to be followed by the words “without limitation”; (b) the word “or” is not exclusive; (c) the words “herein,” “hereof,” “hereby,” “hereto” and “hereunder” refer to this Agreement as a whole; (d) words denoting the singular have a comparable meaning when used in the plural, and vice-versa; and (e) words denoting any gender include all genders. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this Agreement: (x) to sections, exhibits, schedules, attachments, and appendices mean the sections of, and exhibits, schedules, attachments and appendices attached to, this Agreement; (y) to an agreement, instrument or other document means such agreement, instrument or other document as amended, supplemented and modified from time to time to the extent permitted by the provisions thereof; and (z) to a statute means such statute as amended from time to time and includes any successor legislation thereto and any regulations promulgated thereunder. The exhibits, schedules, attachments, and appendices referred to herein are an integral part of this Agreement to the same extent as if they were set forth verbatim herein.

### 3. Definitions

Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings assigned them in this Section 2.

- a. “Account” means each brokerage account that you open with us or in which you otherwise have an interest.
- b. “Adviser” means any registered investment adviser and/or other firm that you have authorized to act for or in connection with your Account. This includes employees, staff, representatives and agents that the registered investment adviser and/or other firm appoint. For the avoidance of doubt, none of the persons and entities referred to in this definition are ETCB or employees, staff, representatives or agents of ETCB.
- c. “Applicable Law” means all applicable federal and state laws, rules and regulations, rules of any government, regulatory or self-regulatory agency or body, and the constitution and applicable rules, regulations, customs and usages of an exchange or market and its clearinghouse.
- d. “Authorized Person” means any Person who has been properly appointed as a full or limited agent for a principal, including without limitation your Adviser, or a fiduciary of, for example, an incompetent person, a trust, a minor, or an estate, or an officer or authorized signature for an

organization. An Authorized Person's authority, including any limitations on such authority, to conduct business in your Account is solely determined between you and the Authorized Person.

- e. "Account Owner" means each Person who has an ownership interest in the Account. If the Account holds community property, an Account Owner's spouse, whether listed in the registration or not, may be considered an Account Owner.
- f. "Business Day" means any day except Saturday, Sunday, or any other day on which commercial banks located in New York City, New York are authorized or required by Applicable Law to be closed for business.
- g. "FINRA" means the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.
- h. "Property" (whether or not capitalized) means of all kinds, monies and all contracts, investments and options relating thereto, whether for present or future delivery, and all distributions, proceeds, products and accessions of all such property this includes all such property held, maintained or carried by us in any manner for you.
- i. "You," "Your" or "Yourself" (whether or not capitalized) means an Account Owner and his, her or its properly Authorized Persons.
- j. "Person" (whether or not capitalized) means any individual, partnership, corporation, trust, limited liability entity, unincorporated organization, association, trusts, investment clubs or any other entity.

#### **4. Account Owner Representations**

Each Account Owner hereby represents, warrants, and covenants that:

- a. If you are an individual, you are of legal age under the laws of the state where you reside and authorized to enter into this Agreement. You also represent that, except as otherwise disclosed to us, you are not an employee of any exchange or FINRA, an associated person of a member firm of any exchange or a FINRA member firm; or, along with your spouse or immediate family member living in your household, a director, a 10% beneficial shareholder, or an affiliate of a publicly traded company.
- b. If you are an entity, you are duly formed, validly existing and in good standing in the jurisdiction of your organization, have full power and authority to enter and perform this Agreement, and the persons signing the application are fully authorized to act on your behalf.
- c. You are opening each Account for investment purposes and not to engage in any improper or illegal activity.
- d. You (i) certify that the information and representations contained in this Agreement, the application, and any other document or information that you furnish to us in connection with your Account(s) is complete, true and correct, and acknowledge that knowingly giving false information for the purpose of inducing us to extend you credit is a federal crime; (ii) authorize us to obtain reports and provide information to others concerning your creditworthiness and business conduct; (iii) authorize us to contact any individual or firm noted herein or on the documents referred to in this section and any other normal sources of debit or credit information; (iv) authorize anyone so contacted to furnish such information to us as we may request; and (iv) agree

that this Agreement, the application and any other document you furnish in connection with your Account is our property. You shall promptly advise us (but in no less than ten (10) Business Days) of any changes to the information in such agreements, documents, or information. We may retain this Agreement, the application, and all other such documents or information at our sole discretion, whether or not credit is extended.

- e. No Person except the Account Owner(s) has an interest in any of your accounts (unless you are opening the Account as a fiduciary).
- f. You will comply with all Applicable Law with respect to your Account.
- g. You shall promptly notify us, in writing, if, at any time during the course of this Agreement, any of the representations or warranties made by you in this Agreement become inaccurate or untrue and of the facts related thereto.

## **5. Important Information about Procedures for Opening and/or Maintaining a New Account**

- a. Federal law, including the USA PATRIOT ACT, requires all financial institutions to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person who opens an Account to help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities. This means that when you open or maintain the Account, we will ask for your name, address, date of birth, and Social Security Number or Taxpayer ID number, and other information that will allow us to verify your identity. We may also ask to see your driver's license or other identifying documents and subsequently make and maintain copies of those records. We may impose additional requirements for certain account types (e.g., accounts for legal entities) and seek the legal entity's name, tax identification number and address, to allow us to verify the entity. The legal entities may also be required to provide additional information to assist with verification of identity. We may also ask for the name, address, date of birth, Social Security Number of persons authorized to act on an account for a legal entity, to allow us to verify the identity of such persons. If persons are acting on your behalf as an Authorized Person, we may ask for each person's name, residential address, date of birth, and Social Security Number, to verify such person's identity.
- b. ETCB will take steps that it deems necessary and reasonable in its sole discretion to verify the authenticity of your identity. Further, you are required to notify us promptly if any information you provided to us changes so that we can update our records.
- c. You acknowledge that we may share the information you provide us through a third-party provider in accordance with federal law. You authorize us to make inquiries for verifying your identity. You further authorize us to share the results of these inquiries relating to the verification of your identity with your Authorized Persons as necessary. You understand that we may share this information with our third-party vendors and/or affiliates to determine your eligibility for other products and services we may offer.
- d. ETCB does not offer advice or recommendations. You understand that ETCB (or its representatives) is not permitted to provide investment advice or investment recommendations or offer any opinion regarding the suitability of any security, order, transaction or strategy for your Account, and no research opinion nor any security on any list or any information provided by ETCB constitutes a recommendation concerning any investment for your Account.
- e. Transactions executed through your Account are based solely on your own decision or that of your Authorized Person, as ETCB does not conduct evaluations of your personal financial situation,

needs, risk tolerance and investment objective(s). Any suitability information, including, but not limited to, information concerning your investment objectives, liquidity needs and tolerance for risk, collected for your Account(s) or related to your Account(s) will not be considered by ETCB when you make investments in your Account.

- f. You understand that check writing and the use of wire payments or Automated Clearing House (“ACH”) payments with respect to your Account are governed by the rules of the bank that facilitates such services for us, the Uniform Commercial Code, Federal and State laws and the terms and conditions set forth in our Terms and Conditions for Online Payment and Deposit Services, which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

## **6. Joint Accounts**

If the Account is owned by more than one Person, you jointly and severally agree that each co-owner of the Account has complete authority to act on behalf of all and to give instructions concerning trades in the Account, including the delivery of funds and securities to the co-owners. We reserve the right to require that all Account Owners agree to a request if we believe it is necessary, but you agree we are under no obligation to do so. Unless you have notified us to the contrary in writing and we have accepted signed notification, all Accounts with joint registration shall be joint with right of survivorship. We will have no liability for any loss that arises from taking instructions from one Account Owner or requiring instructions from all Account Owners. Liability with respect to the Account shall be joint and several, and each of you will be fully liable for any amounts due to us under this Agreement. If registered as Tenants in Common, each of you have an undivided interest in the Account. If you are registered as Joint Tenants with right of survivorship or a husband and wife are registered as Tenants by the Entireties and one of you dies, the entire Account shall become the property of the survivor(s). In the event of an Account Owner’s death, the survivor(s) shall immediately notify us in writing and, along with the estate of the deceased, shall continue to be jointly and severally liable for any debit balance resulting from transactions initiated before we received the written notice of death. We reserve the right to freeze any Account and temporarily suspend trading privileges or restrict withdrawals from an Account when notice has been received of a dispute between the registered or beneficial owners or there is reason to believe a fraudulent transaction may occur.

## **7. Custodial Account for a Minor**

You understand and agree that any Account that is a custodial Account opened on behalf or for the benefit of a minor belongs to the minor for whom it was opened. If you transfer assets out of the custodial Account, you represent to us that those assets are to be used for the minor’s benefit. You are responsible for notifying us when the minor reaches the age of majority or is entitled to control the Account or the assets in the Account. You are responsible for taking any necessary actions to provide access to the Account and the assets in the custodial Account when the minor reaches the age of majority as defined by Applicable Law. If we believe the minor has reached the age of majority or is otherwise entitled to directly control the Account or the assets in the custodial Account, then we may restrict access or activity in the custodial Account and/or provide the former minor control of the Account and assets in the custodial Account.

## **8. Self-Directed Account**

You understand that Accounts opened with us are self-directed. We are only responsible for, and are authorized to, open or close Accounts, place and withdraw orders and take such other steps as are reasonable to carry out your directions. You understand that we do not provide any investment advice or offer any opinion with respect to the suitability of any transaction, security, or order in your Account.

Until we receive from you written notice to the contrary that is acceptable to us, we may accept from your Authorized Person, without inquiry or investigation, orders for the purchase or sale of securities and other property, and other instructions related thereto. (For the avoidance of doubt, such other instructions do not include instructions concerning the withdrawal of funds or other money movements unless you have specifically authorized that Authorized Person to take such action.) We are not otherwise responsible for the conduct of your Authorized Person. You agree that we shall be held harmless from and against any losses, costs or expenses arising in connection with the delivery or receipt of any such communication(s), provided we have acted in accordance with the above.

## 9. SIPC Account Protection.

We are a member of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), which protects securities customers of its members up to \$500,000 (including up to \$250,000 for claims for cash) per client as defined by SIPC rules. You may request an explanatory brochure of this coverage at [www.sipc.org](http://www.sipc.org) or via telephone at (202) 371-8300. **You understand that such coverage does not include transactions or trading losses or declines in the value of securities.** You also understand that SIPC coverage may not apply to alternative investments.

## 10. Authorized Persons

- a. You may appoint an Authorized Person to your Account in any form or manner that is acceptable to us. We will provide an Authorized Person access to your Account and will continue to provide such access until notified in writing by you or the Authorized Person to terminate such access, as further described below. Your Authorized Persons may sign any necessary forms and agreements on your behalf to execute obligations with respect to your Account, and you will be bound by those forms and agreements as though you had signed them yourself. Any such form or agreement will be in full force until revocation or termination by you or an Authorized Person. You agree that we are not responsible for any actions or omissions of any Authorized Person taken on your behalf or that we believe are taken on your behalf, or our own actions taken in reliance thereon.
- b. You shall be responsible for investigating, selecting, instructing, and monitoring the Authorized Person and to perform whatever due diligence as may be appropriate before selecting or retaining that individual. The Authorized Person shall be the authorized agent of you and shall not be treated as an affiliate, agent, or employee of ETCB.
- c. You may remove an Authorized Person from your Account by providing written notice to us, on a form that is acceptable to us, but that removal shall not have the effect of canceling any notice or direction we received prior to us receiving the written notice of cancellation. You are solely responsible for removing the Authorized Person once you appoint that person by notifying us of such request to remove that Authorized Person through the process we require. If you revoke or terminate the authorization of an Authorized Person, you agree to notify them of your revocation or termination at or before you submit this revocation to us. We do have the right to remove an Authorized Person from your Account at our discretion. If we remove an Authorized Person in this manner, it is not a recommendation to you but rather is a business decision performed by ETCB.
- d. We may have an agreement with your Authorized Person with respect to your Account. If we or your Authorized Person terminate such agreement, your Authorized Person’s authority over your accounts will also be terminated. In such circumstances, you must appoint a new Authorized Person, and until you take such action, your Account will remain unmanaged, and you will have exclusive control and sole responsibility for your Account.

## **11. Adviser Agreement**

You acknowledge that your Adviser may have entered into a separate agreement with us to access and/or manage your Account. You authorize the Adviser (or its Authorized Person) to appoint and use other agents on the Account at Adviser's discretion, and should Adviser appoint an agent pursuant to this authority, we are entitled to rely on and execute any instructions from that agent as if Adviser directly gave those instructions to us.

## **12. Trusted Contact**

If you provide us with a trusted contact, then you agree that we are authorized to communicate with that Persons for the following reasons: (i) if we have questions or concerns about your whereabouts or health status; (ii) if we suspect that you may be a victim of fraud or financial exploitation; (iii) to confirm the identity of any guardian, executor, trustee, or holder of a power of attorney; or (iv) any other purpose permitted by law or regulation.

## **13. Confidentiality**

- a. We maintain the confidentiality of Account information in accordance with our Privacy Policy. An issuer of securities listed, or authorized for listing, on a national securities exchange that is distributing proxy materials to its shareholders is entitled to request from a broker-dealer the account information for customers who are shareholders of the issuer's securities if such shareholders have not objected to the release of such information. You acknowledge that unless we receive written objection from you, under SEC Rule 14b-1(c), we may provide your name, address, and security positions to requesting companies in which you hold securities.
- b. However, for securities that are not listed, or authorized for listing, on a national securities exchange, including, for example, mutual fund securities (unlisted securities), it may be necessary for us to disclose your information and information about your Account to initiate and/or complete securities transactions, to reconcile the number of outstanding or issued securities with the issuer, to assist with proper tax reporting on your holdings and/or to oversee your compliance with any conditions disclosed in prospectus or offering documents. In addition, we may receive requests by foreign tax authorities or issuers with respect to securities subject to foreign tax withholding or voting restrictions (whether those securities are listed or unlisted securities) and in those limited circumstances you agree to allow us to provide your information to them or their agents, whether within or outside of the U.S., even though, for all other purposes, you are objecting to such release. By agreeing to this Agreement, you permit us to release your Account information as outlined above. This permission does not override your continuing general objection to our providing your Account information to the issuers of the listed securities you own and hold in your Account with us. Please refer to our Privacy Policy for a description of the potential uses of your information by us or any third party.
- c. In addition to the above, an Authorized Person may direct us to share certain account information in the normal course of business. You agree that we can rely on this instruction and may disclose account information as directed by any Authorized Person associated with your account.

## **14. Electronic Communications and Signatures**

You acknowledge that you have read and understood the E-Sign Disclosure and Consent, which is provided to you as an Exhibit to this Agreement, and confirm that you affirmatively consent to the

electronic delivery of information as set forth therein, unless you have indicated in writing on Account Application or the E-Sign Disclosure and Consent that you decline to give such consent and, thus, require all communications to be in paper / hard copy and all signatures to be manually affixed.

### **15. Electronic Services**

- a. We do not guarantee that our systems will be available to you at any particular time. Access to our websites may be limited or unavailable during periods of peak demand, market volatility, system upgrades or other reasons.
- b. You agree that you will use our systems for lawful purposes as permitted by this Agreement. We reserve the right to suspend or deny access to our services without prior notice and for any reason.
- c. Certain features of our websites may require you to accept cookies. These websites may also include hyperlinks to websites owned or operated by third parties. You agree that we are not responsible for the content or availability of these other websites and will not be responsible for any loss due to reliance on these sites.

### **16. Statements and Confirmations.**

- a. You understand that we will deliver confirmations, statements, and all written or other notices concerning your Account directly to you. You agree that we shall be held harmless from and against any losses, costs or expenses arising in connection with the delivery or receipt of any such communication(s), provided we have acted in accordance with the above.
- b. If you suspect any error in a statement or trade confirmation, or if you have not received a trade confirmation you must promptly notify us. It is your responsibility to review your statements and confirmations carefully and to contact us with questions or errors. You may object by telephone call or in writing, but you must confirm any oral objection or notice immediately in writing (via electronically by the email address provided on our website or to you). You further agree that reports of execution of orders and statements of your account will be conclusive if you do not object within ten (10) business days after transmittal to you for a statement and after five (5) business days of receipt of a confirmation. We reserve the right to challenge any objections.

### **17. Oral Authorization and Telephone Recordings**

You agree that we are entitled to act upon any oral instructions that you or your Authorized Person give us consistent with the terms of this Agreement so long as we reasonably believe such instruction was actually given by you or your Authorized Person. You understand and agree that we may, in our sole and absolute discretion, record telephone conversations between you and us to evidence your instructions and you consent to the same.

### **18. Tax Reporting**

We will report the proceeds of sales transactions and dividends paid to the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with Applicable Law. For qualified accounts, our affiliate, Equity Trust Company will serve as your account's directed trustee and will perform your account's tax reporting to the Internal Revenue Service, in accordance with Applicable Law.



## **19. Beneficiary Designations**

Changes in the relationship between the Account Owner and designated beneficiary (such as marriage, divorce or adoption) will not automatically add or revoke beneficiary designations. The Account Owner must submit a new beneficiary designation to us with such changes.

## **20. Sub-Agents**

We may engage other brokers or agents in connection with the execution of any order or the consummation of any other transaction with respect to your Account and we shall only be responsible for reasonable care in their selection.

## **21. Third Parties**

Subject to Applicable Law, we may delegate certain administrative, operational, or other custodial related services with respect to your Account for which we otherwise have responsibility under this Agreement to affiliated and unaffiliated third parties, including, but not limited to, Equity Administrative Services, Inc. (“EAS”) or Equity Trust Company (“ETC”). The limitations on our duties for you under this Agreement or otherwise shall apply with respect to each third party so employed or retained on our behalf.

## **22. Rights and Responsibilities Associated with Placing Transactions**

- a. You are fully responsible for the content and accuracy of all authorized instructions, and for all results and consequences of such instructions, placed by you or your Authorized Person.
- b. All decisions relating to your investment or trading activity shall be made solely by you or your Authorized Person.
- c. You agree that cash and available funds or equity must be in your Account prior to the execution and/or settlement of trades. In the event that you or your Authorized Person reneges on a trade, for whatever reason, responsibility for any liability, claim, loss or diminution of value of your Account, including, but not limited to, any tax consequences relating thereto, will be borne by you.
- d. In connection with any brokerage services, we will not: (i) act as a principal for any trades or make a market in any security or mutual fund; (ii) solicit orders; (iii) exercise discretion with respect to investment decisions on behalf of you or your Agent; (iv) provide research or advice regarding securities; (v) provide any party or entity with advice regarding any investment strategy involving a security or securities, with investment recommendations or otherwise give investment, tax or legal advice; or (vi) offer any proprietary investment products.

## **23. Trading Restrictions**

You understand that we may, in our sole and absolute discretion, prohibit or restrict the trading of securities, or the substitution of securities, in any of your Accounts. You understand that we may execute all of your orders on any exchange or market unless you specifically instruct us in writing to the contrary.

## **24. Sell Orders: Deliveries and Settlement**

Unless otherwise specifically designated, we will deem any order directing the sale of securities or other assets to be a “long” sale, and in connection with any such order, you represent to us that you are the owner of the property subject of such order and agree to deliver the property to us in negotiable form on or before the settlement date. In the event that you fail to deliver the property to us by the close of business on the settlement date, you authorize us, in our sole and absolute discretion and without notice to you, to (i) delay settlement, (ii) purchase comparable property to cover your position, or (iii) cancel the transaction. We may also charge any loss (including interest), commission and fees to your Account.

## **25. Buy Orders: Settlements**

When you or your Authorized Person direct us to purchase securities or other assets, you agree to provide sufficient collected funds to cover such purchase on or before the settlement date. In the event that you fail to provide sufficient funds, you agree that we may at our option and without notice to you, (i) charge a reasonable rate of interest, (ii) liquidate the property subject of the buy order, or (iii) sell other property owned by you and held in any account. You agree that we may also charge any consequential loss to your Account.

## **26. Fractional Shares**

You understand and agree that we will convert any fractional shares in your Account to cash and such cash will be subject to the Program (as described in Section 40) if applicable. If you decide that you want to reinvest any fractional shares rather than have such cashed out, you must send us a written direction to reinvest and provide any necessary specifications we need to carry out your direction.

## **27. Margin**

If you qualify for and are approved for margin in your Account, then you agree that you are aware of, and shall be bound by, all Applicable Law with respect to margin. You agree that you have read, understood, and agree to the disclosures and terms and conditions of the Margin Disclosure Statement attached hereto as Exhibit B and Margin Account Addendum attached hereto as Exhibit C.

## **28. Prohibition on Freeriding**

If we have not afforded you margin privileges (referred to in this section as a cash account), then you must pay for the purchase of a security before you can sell it. If you buy and sell a security before paying for it with settled funds, then you have committed a “Good Faith Violation.” If you buy securities and then pay for that purchase by using the proceeds from a sale of the same securities, then you are engaging in an activity that is prohibited by federal regulations called “freeriding”. Accordingly, you understand and agree that if you purchase securities in a cash account and sell them before payment is received, we will place that cash account on restricted status for a period of 90 calendar days following the trade date or place other restrictions as required or permitted by law or regulation. During any period of restriction, unless your cash account contains funds in advance of the trade sufficient to pay for any new purchase in full, you agree that you will not be permitted to purchase or sell any new securities in that cash account. You agree that we can cancel or remove any trades from your cash account that are made in violation of these or any other legal or regulatory prohibitions on freeriding. Nothing stated in this section constitutes a modification of any Applicable Law to which you and us are subject.

## **29. RESERVED**

## **30. Distributions**

In the event that you sell a security prior to its ex-dividend/distribution date, and you receive the related cash/stock dividend or distribution in error, you direct us on your behalf to pay such dividend/distribution to the entitled purchaser of the securities sold, and you guarantee to promptly reimburse us for, or deliver to us, said dividend or distribution.

## **31. Corporate Actions and Proxies**

- a. You are responsible to know the rights and terms of all securities in your Account.
- b. You are solely responsible for knowing about periodic payment activities including cash, stock, and optional dividends. We are not obligated to notify you of any such activities.
- c. Certain securities may provide you with rights that expire unless you act. We are not obligated to notify you of any upcoming expiration or redemption dates or to take any other action on your behalf without specific instructions from you, except as required by applicable law. This provision notwithstanding, if any such right is about to expire, become worthless, or be redeemed for significantly less than its fair market value, and you have not provided instructions to us, then we may, at our sole and absolute discretion, act on your behalf and credit your Account with the proceeds. You understand that that we are not obligated to do so, and as such, you expressly agree not to hold us liable for any losses or expiration of rights arising out of or relating to your failure to act or to give instructions to us to act on your behalf.
- d. You are responsible for knowing about any reorganizations related to securities that you hold, including, without limitation, mergers, name changes, stock splits, and reverse stock splits. We are not obligated to notify you of any such reorganizations before they occur. You acknowledge that we will not allocate securities or funds resulting from reorganizations until we receive such securities or funds from the paying agent or depository. On voluntary reorganization instructions (i.e., tender or exchange offers), you agree to provide instructions to us no later than two (2) business days prior to the expiration of the offer to allow us sufficient time to act on your instructions. We will process any instructions received after that time on a “reasonable efforts” basis only.

## **32. Payment for Order Flow**

- a. Rule 607 of Regulation NMS requires us to disclose, upon opening a new customer account and on an annual basis thereafter: (i) our policies regarding receipt of payment for order flow, including a statement as to whether any payment for order flow is received for routing customer orders and a detailed description of the nature of the compensation received, and (ii) our policies for determining where to route customer orders that are the subject of payment for order flow absent specific instructions.
- b. We transmit customer orders for execution to various exchanges or market centers based on a number of factors, including the order’s size, the security’s trading characteristics, favorable execution prices (including the opportunity for price improvement), access to reliable market data, availability of efficient automated transaction processing and reduced execution costs through price concessions from the market centers. We may receive remuneration (payment for order flow) from such exchange or market centers, including without limitation, any monetary payment,

service, property, or other benefit that results in compensation or consideration to us in return for directing orders. Compensation is generally in the form of a per share or per contract basis. However, the potential for receipt of order flow is not a factor in the routing determination. The nature and source of any payments and/or credits received by us in connection with any specific transactions will be furnished upon written request.

### **33. Fees and Charges**

- a. You understand that there are commissions and fees for executing buy and sell orders and for other services provided under this Agreement. You agree to pay such commissions and fees at the then prevailing rate. You acknowledge that the prevailing rate may change without notice. You agree to be bound by such changes. You specifically agree to pay a reasonable rate of interest on the principal amount of any debt balance carried with respect to the Account. Interest due on the Account is payable on demand. If you request any stock borrow and we offer such services, then you also understand and agree that we may charge you borrow rates that we determine in our sole discretion and which we will disclose upon request.
- b. We may, from time to time, establish independent contractor relationships with third parties for products and services that may be beneficial to you and whereby we receive a fee paid from by the third party pursuant to an agreement between us and the third party offering the services. These third parties may be affiliates with whom we have common ownership (such as EAS and ETC). You should consult with your financial and legal advisors before purchasing any such product or services, and it is your responsibility to perform proper due diligence with regard to any product or service offered by any such third parties, and we make no recommendations and provide no investment advice regarding any such product or services or with regards to your needs or Account. You are in no way obligated to purchase products or services generally or to purchase products or services from any such third party. You may not rely on any statement made by us or any of our officers, directors, employees, or agents for any decisions regarding the purchase of any product or service from any such third party.
- c. We may receive fees from unrelated third parties as a result of an agreement with such third party for servicing your Account. We also may, from time to time, offer other services, such as the right to use our licensed proprietary software and investment platforms to unrelated third parties for a fee (including, without limiting, a transaction-based fee) paid by such third party, to prove you with the ability to make investment purchases and sales through such platforms or use of these services.
- d. We may utilize third party services to obtain data necessary to perform our obligations under this Agreement and you agree that we may charge your Account a fee for utilization of such services. We may charge you and/or your Account for any reasonable expenses incurred by us in connection with any services that we deem necessary, or which are directed by you for the administration of your Account. These include, but are not limited to, attorney fees and expenses associated with the defense of or on behalf of your Account or its assets and in defense of us if we are named in any proceeding involved your Account.
- e. You also agree to pay such expenses incurred by us in connection with collection or any unpaid balance due on your Account, including, but not limited to, attorney fees and expenses allowed by Applicable Law. You agree that we may deduct any fees and charges directly from your Account to the extent permitted by the Applicable Law.

- f. We may also pay unrelated third parties for marketing or other services they provide to us generally or in connection with your Account.
- g. You understand that you may incur third party fees associated with a transaction or investment because of your relationship with such third party and you acknowledge that these third-party fees may not be disclosed on our fee schedule. You acknowledge that you are solely responsible for these third-party fees.

#### **34. Lottery Allocation System**

If we hold any securities for you that are callable in part, you agree to participate in an impartial lottery allocation system of the called securities in accordance with FINRA rules.

#### **35. Valuation of Alternative Assets and Worthless Securities**

- a. Annually (or more frequently), we may request updated valuation information from you and/or your Authorized Person. It is your duty to ensure that the fair market value of the alternative assets in your Account are accurate. We report the value of the assets in your Account on your Account statements, and we will report the value as accurately as possible using the resources available to us. Where the fair market value of an asset in your Account is readily ascertainable on either an established exchange or generally recognized market used in the financial services industry, we will report such valuations. Where the fair market value of an asset in Your account is not readily ascertainable, you agree that you will provide to us an acceptable valuation of the asset. We have no obligation to verify the values of the alternative investments that are provided to us and assume no responsibility for the accuracy.
- b. If you do not provide a valuation or appraisal for alternative assets, we may report that the asset's value at its last known fair market value, at its acquisition cost, or we may, at our discretion, use a third-party source to value the asset. We may require that you provide such an appraisal or validation with an updated valuation of the asset for any transaction which results in a taxable event, such as a distribution. You are solely responsible for the tax consequences of asset values reported to the Internal Revenue Service in connection with a distribution of any assets in your account or any other taxable event.
- c. If you believe that an asset in your Account should be reported at a different value, or does not have any value, it is your responsibility to provide us with information sufficient to demonstrate that the asset's reported value should be changed. You may provide us with this information through means we consider acceptable to evidence the new value of the asset. If you do not provide sufficient information to devalue the asset, we may continue to report the asset at the last known value given to us or provided by a third-party source. If we become aware that an asset has lost value or has no value, we may notify you of such information and may reduce the value of such asset.

#### **36. Market Data**

- a. We may convey to you delayed, or current (which will require additional agreements from you regarding the use of such data with the various exchanges providing such data and perhaps other agreements), last sale transaction data, bid and asked quotations, news reports, third-party analysts' reports or research, and other information relating to securities and the securities markets (collectively referred to in this section as "market data"). We obtain market data from securities exchanges, markets and from third parties that transmit market data (collectively referred to in this

section as “the market data providers”). All market data is protected by copyright laws. We provide market data for your personal noncommercial use. You may not sell, market, or distribute it in any way, unless you have entered into written agreements with the appropriate market data providers. We receive the market data from industry sources that are believed to be reliable. However, the accuracy, completeness, timeliness, or correct sequencing of the market data cannot be guaranteed either by us or by the market data providers. Neither we nor the market data providers will be liable for interruptions or delays in the availability of market data or your access to market data.

- b. Your right to use market data is subject to the terms of all of your agreements with applicable providers of such market data. We may charge a fee for providing this market data, which may change from time to time. We, or our providers of market data, may inform you of the applicable fee for market data by posting applicable information to our website(s) or by other means. We may set off any amount due from you in respect of market data from your account without providing further notice to you.
- c. **Market data is provided “as is” and on an “as available” basis without any warranty of any kind, express or implied. We are not responsible for, and you agree not to hold us liable for, lost profits, trading losses or other damages resulting from inaccurate, defective or unavailable market data. In any case, our liability arising from any legal claim (whether in contract, tort or otherwise) relating to the market data will not exceed the amount you have paid for use of the services or market data for the prior calendar month. You agree that we may correct any execution reported to you that was based on inaccurate market data provided to us by an exchange, market center or other data provider.**

### 37. Trade Execution and Prices

You understand and agree that:

- a. You or your Authorized Person are solely responsible for selecting the terms of your orders, including, but not limited to, the security, order type, quantity, and time in force.
- b. High volumes of trading may cause delays in execution and result in prices that are significantly different than the price quoted at the time that the order was entered.
- c. The execution price that you receive may be impacted by factors beyond our control and responsibility.
- d. The execution of market and stop-market orders may be at price that is significantly different from the security’s quoted price. In addition, a market or stop-market order placed when the markets are halted or closed may be executed at a price substantially different than the previous closing price once the markets are open. You are obligated to pay or receive that prevailing price regardless. If this price exceeds the available cash in your account, and you do not have margin privileges, then we may make immediate action to sell these securities without notice to you and you agree that you are responsible for any debit balances that result from these actions.
- e. Securities that are traded in over-the-counter bulletin boards (“OTC equity securities”) and other thinly traded securities are more volatile and generally less liquid than securities that are traded on exchanges. At its own discretion, ETCB may restrict access to certain securities traded in over-the-counter bulletin boards or that are thinly traded securities. ETCB may also restrict your ability to enter market orders and other order types in certain instances and require you to place limit

orders to trade OTC equity securities. For more information, please see the Firm's Over-the-Counter Equities Disclosure posted to our website.

- f. You may suffer market losses when systems issues result in an inability to place orders.

### **38. Mutual Funds**

If you purchase or hold a mutual fund, you agree to read and understand the terms of its prospectus as it is important that you understand, among other important attributes, the mutual fund's sales charges, expenses, purchasing, switching or redemption procedures, and management fees you will be charged, as well as any breakpoint discounts to which you may be entitled. We encourage you to review the applicable fees and discounts with your Adviser or Authorized Person and review the available prospectuses and additional information when choosing among mutual fund products. For more information on this topic, please see [FINRA's Mutual Funds Breakpoint Discounts Disclosure Statement on its website](#). You authorize us to act as your agent in the purchase and redemption of mutual fund shares. You understand that any mutual fund order that you entered with us is placed on a best efforts basis as prescribed and recognized by the individual fund, and that we are not responsible for unexecuted orders due to the failure of any communication system.

### **39. Insured Deposit Program**

- a. You understand and agree that we may automatically deposit all undirected and uninvested cash from any source, including, but not limited to, contributions, transfers and income from assets held in your Account, into our Insured Deposit Program (the "Program"), which places such deposited cash into one or more financial institutions that qualify as well-capitalized under federal bank regulatory agency definitions. Interest earned on such cash balances net of the Program fee shall be credited to your Account as of the end of each month, provided your Account is open on the last Business Day of the month.
- b. You acknowledge and agree that you have read and understand the Program terms and conditions attached hereto as Exhibit F.
- c. You direct us to sweep available free credit balances automatically into the Program utilizing such well-capitalized financial institutions until such time as further direction is received from you or your Authorized Persons.
- d. You also authorize us to transfer any such cash to a different well-capitalized financial institution without any further approval from you.
- e. You acknowledge and understand that the Program cutoff is 3:00 pm US Eastern time each Business Day (the "Cutoff") and any uninvested or undirected cash received after the Cutoff will be held by us in a zero-interest money market fund until the following Business Day, at which time such cash will be deposited into the Program.

### **40. Payment of Indebtedness upon Demand**

- a. In the event you become indebted to us in the course of owning this Account, you agree to repay any such indebtedness upon our demand. If after our demand you fail to pay the indebtedness, then you agree that we may close your Account and/or liquidate any assets in it at our discretion to pay such indebtedness. As security for any and all liabilities arising in favor of us, you agree that we will have a security interest in all property we hold to the extent permitted by Applicable



Law. You authorize us to make whatever disposition of pledged property we may deem appropriate to realize the security afforded by this provision, and you will remain liable for the deficiency. You further agree that we shall be entitled to exercise the rights and remedies generally afforded a secured party under the Uniform Commercial Code. Finally, you agree to reimburse us the reasonable costs of collection of any debit balance and any unpaid deficiency in your Account, including any attorney's fees we incur.

- b. You understand that if you have not paid what you owe to ETCB, its affiliates, including but not limited to ETC, or your Advisor, then without notice, ETCB may sell any and all securities and other property which it holds for you (either individually, jointly or in the name of another person) or take any action that ETCB in its sole discretion deems appropriate to cover the debt owed or in dispute or to otherwise protect ETCB.

#### **41. Security for Indebtedness**

You consent to us having a continuing security interest in, right of set-off to and lien on all securities, cash, investment property and other property in your Account (“Collateral”). Subject to Applicable Law, and without prior notice to you, we may sell or transfer Collateral to satisfy your obligations. We also have the discretion to determine which securities and other properties are to be sold and which contracts are to be close. We have all the rights of a secured party under the Uniform Commercial Code. This security is in addition to any other rights or remedies available to us under Applicable Law.

#### **42. Effect of Attachment or Sequestration of Accounts**

You agree that we shall not be liable for refusing to obey any orders given by or for you with respect to any Account that has or have been subject to an attachment or sequestration to any legal proceeding against you, and we shall be under no obligation to contest the validity of any such attachment or sequestration.

#### **43. Effect of Death**

- a. You agree that, in the event of your death, your Authorized Person, the personal representative, your estate or your beneficiary has to give us written notice of your death immediately upon discovery. We may, before or after receiving such notice, take such proceedings, require such papers and inheritance or estate tax waivers, retain such portion of or restrict transactions in the account as we may deem advisable to protect us against any tax, liability, penalty, or loss under any present or future laws or otherwise. Such notice shall not affect our rights under this Agreement to take any action we could have taken if you had not died.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, we may cancel all open orders or pending account transfers in case of your death. Still, we shall not be responsible for any action taken on such orders or transfers before receiving notice of death. Further, in our sole and absolute discretion, we may close out any or all of your Accounts without awaiting the appointment of a personal representative for your estate and without demand upon or notice to any such personal representative.

#### **44. Account Termination, Restriction and Escheatment**

- a. At our sole discretion, we may amend this Agreement or terminate, deactivate, restrict, or block access to your Account at any time, which shall become effective immediately without notice upon delivery of such notice to you at your email address or last known physical address. Termination may include specific Account services, Account trading features (such as but not

limited to Option and/or Margin privileges) as well as the Account itself. Termination of your Account will result in the cancellation of all open orders and other features and/or privileges associated with the Account. If we decide to close your Account and you fail to transfer it to another broker, we may liquidate your Account and send you the proceeds.

- b. You will remain responsible for all charges, debts, or other transactions that arise before or after your Account is closed. We reserve the right to charge a service fee or close any Account that fails to maintain minimum balances. This Agreement survives termination of your Account.
- c. You and/or your Authorized Person will be notified of any actions or charges we take against your Account. Accounts may incur termination fees and other fees. Please consult our website regarding the fee disclosures.
- d. In the event assets remain in your Account for a period of time and we are unable to reach you, your assets may be transferred to the appropriate state within the parameters and time period specified by applicable state law. We encourage you to contact the appropriate state government agency of the state in which you reside for more information about the treatment of unclaimed property in your state and the escheatment process.
- e. You understand that we may (whenever we consider itself to be at risk for any reason with respect to your Account) freeze or close/reject any trade/order or prohibit or restrict trading of securities or alternative investments in your Account without notice to you, and you shall remain liable for all your obligations to ETCB under this Agreement or otherwise.
- f. When your Account is closed or this Agreement is terminated, you agree that you will be responsible for giving ETCB instructions for how to dispose of the assets held in your Account. You agree that you will be responsible for any transaction costs, including commissions, associated with your instructions.

#### **45. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability**

- a. Except to extent arising from our gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct, to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, you agree to indemnify, defend and holds harmless ETCB, its affiliates and its and their respective officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, successors and assigns (collectively, "Indemnified Parties") from any and all liabilities, losses, costs, judgments, penalties, claims, actions, damages, expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) resulting or arising directly or indirectly from the use of our services or transactions in your Account, including without limitation:
  - i. Any breach by you or an Authorized Person of any provision of this Agreement;
  - ii. Any dishonest, fraudulent, negligent or criminal act or omission by you or an Authorized Person;
  - iii. Any inaccurate or outdated information supplied to us by you or an Authorized Person;
  - iv. Any dispute that does not directly result from our willful misconduct or gross negligence in our performance of services as set forth in this Agreement or any other agreement as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction or an arbitration panel in a final non-appealable judgment;
  - v. The performance or non-performance, delivery or non-delivery of services by your Authorized Person and any dispute between you and your Authorized Person that does not directly result from our performance of services as set forth in this Agreement;

- vi. Any allegation that the Indemnified Parties acted or failed to act in an “advisory,” “supervisory,” “surveilling,” “fiduciary” or “reviewing” role with respect to your Account;
  - vii. Any allegation that the Indemnified Parties acted improperly or failed to act properly in permitting or continuing to permit, any services to be rendered to you (or the manner in which such services were rendered or failed to be rendered), including any trading or investment activity or movement of money or funds (or lack of any such activity or movement thereof);
  - viii. The failure by any person not controlled by the Indemnified Parties to perform any obligations to you;
  - ix. Any compromise of your or your Authorized Person’s computer, network, or methods you or your Authorized Person use to protect your Account or the email you or your Authorized Person use to communicate with us;
  - x. Any issues arising in connection with “held away assets” (as defined below) and third parties’ servicing such held away assets; or
  - xi. Any debit, deduction or reduction in value from (i) reclaimed funds resulting from (A) the initiation of electronic funds transfers (EFT) to or from any account by you regardless of reason or when made, (B) any checks returned for insufficient funds, (C) any wire or other transfer not properly authorized by you (it being understood that reclaims can be made for substantial periods of time after the initial credit was processed and without recourse); and (ii) any fees owed to Indemnified Parties by you if there are insufficient monies and securities after liquidation to cover fees owed to us.
- b. None of our Indemnified Parties or their third-party service providers shall be liable for any actions taken or omitted in accordance with any instruction from you or your Authorized Person. To the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, none of our Indemnified Parties and their third-party service providers shall be liable for any action taken or omitted to be taken by any of them under this Agreement or in connection with the services provided to you except to the extent that such Losses are actual losses and are determined by a court of competent jurisdiction or an arbitration panel in a final non-appealable judgment or order to have resulted solely from such Indemnified Parties’ or such third-party service provider’s gross negligence, fraud or willful misconduct. In no event shall any of our Indemnified Parties or their third-party service providers be held liable for (i) indirect, consequential, exemplary, or punitive damages; or (ii) any loss of any kind caused, directly or indirectly, by any extraordinary or force majeure event (including, without limitation, any event beyond our reasonable ability to control such as pandemics, fire, flood, and similar acts of nature, market, electricity, communications and/or Internet outages, terrorism, war, government actions or restrictions, public or private exchange or market regulatory rulings, suspensions of trading, or quote vendor, market maker or other third-party errors, failures or outages, as well as actions or omissions of unaffiliated third parties); or (iii) any losses or liabilities that arise as a result of computer viruses, malware, or the theft or interception of your account information or credentials, including any actions taken by us pursuant to instructions from someone acting with apparent authority over your account; or (iv) any losses caused directly or indirectly by our decision to voluntarily limit, restrict or suspend trading of any security through us for any reason, including, without limitation, for risk management purposes, or (v) any losses or liabilities that arise as a result of high trading volume, market volatility, or computer, telecommunications, or Internet failures, regardless of the cause including specifically if caused by us due to our gross negligence or willful misconduct, and you unconditionally waive any right you may have to claim or recover such damages (even if you have informed an Indemnified Party or their third-party service providers of the possibility or likelihood of such damages).
- c. You will institute a defense against any claims at your sole expense and using counsel reasonably acceptable to us. You will keep us informed of the status of the defense of such claims, and you shall not agree to entry of any judgment or enter into any settlement without our written consent

(which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld) unless: (i) the judgment or proposed settlement involves only the payment of monetary damages by you, does not impose injunctive or other equitable relief upon you and releases the Indemnify Parties from any liability; (ii) there are no additional third party claims that are reasonably likely to be made against us; (iii) there are no likely adverse impacts on existing third party claims as a result of the will have no liability with respect to such judgment or proposed settlement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, we will have the right to assume the defense of such claims at your sole expense.

- d. If the Indemnified Parties suffer or incur any Losses for which the Indemnified Parties are entitled to be indemnified pursuant to this Agreement, and you shall fail to make such indemnification within ten (10) business days after being requested to do so, we have the right to deduct the amount of such Losses from your Account.

#### **46. Governing Law**

This Agreement, all documents that it incorporates by reference and all transactions made in your account will be governed by the laws of the State of New York (regardless of the choice of law rules thereof) except to the extent governed by federal securities law, the Federal Arbitration Act, and to the constitution, rules, regulations, customs and usage of the exchanges or market (and its clearing house) where executed.

#### **47. Arbitration**

- a. **Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the Account established by this Agreement or any transaction therein shall be determined by an arbitration panel convened by FINRA Dispute Resolution under its applicable Code of Arbitration Procedure (“FINRA Code”) then in effect. You agree that any judgment upon an award rendered by arbitration may be entered in any court having proper jurisdiction. You understand that:**
  - i. **Arbitration is final and binding on the parties. All parties to this Agreement are giving up the right to sue each other in court, including the right to a trial by jury, except as provided by the rules of the arbitration forum in which a claim is filed.**
  - ii. **The parties are waiving their right to seek remedies in court, including the right to a jury trial. Arbitration awards are generally final and binding; a party’s ability to have a court reverse or modify an arbitration award is very limited.**
  - iii. **Pre-arbitration discovery is generally more limited than and different from court proceedings. The ability of the parties to obtain documents, witness statements and other discovery is generally more limited in arbitration than in court proceedings.**
  - iv. **The arbitrators’ award is not required to include factual findings or legal reasonings and any party’s right to appeal or seek modification of rulings of the arbitrators is strictly limited. The arbitrators do not have to explain the reason(s) for their award unless, in an eligible case, a joint request for an explained decision has been submitted by all parties to the panel within the requisite time required by the FINRA Code.**
  - v. **The panel of arbitrators may include a minority of arbitrators who were or are affiliated with the securities industry.**

- vi. **The rules of some arbitration forums may impose time limits for bringing a claim in arbitration. In some cases, a claim that is ineligible for arbitration may be brought to court.**
- vii. **The rules of the arbitration forum in which the claim is filed, and any amendments thereto, shall be incorporated into this agreement.**
- b. **This agreement to arbitrate constitutes a waiver of the right to seek a judicial forum, unless such a waiver would be void under the federal securities laws.**
- c. **No person shall bring a putative or certified class action to arbitration, nor seek to enforce any pre-dispute arbitration agreement against any person who has initiated in court a putative class action; or who is a member or a putative class who has not opted out of the class with respect to any claims encompassed by the putative class action until the class certification is denied; the class is decertified; or the customer is excluded from the class by the court. Such forbearance to enforce an agreement to arbitrate shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this Agreement except to the extent stated herein.**
- d. **The venue for all arbitration proceedings arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be Cleveland, Ohio to the extent enforceable under the FINRA Code.**
- e. **You expressly agree that this agreement to arbitrate does not entitle you to arbitrate claims that would be barred by the relevant statute of limitations if such claims were brought in a court of competent jurisdiction.**

#### **48. Notice**

We may send you all communications at the mailing address for the Account or email address that you have given us in your Account Application or at such other address as you may hereafter give us in writing or by email at least ten (10) days prior to delivery, and all communications so sent, whether in writing or otherwise, shall be deemed given to you personally, whether actually received or not.

#### **49. Force Majeure**

We shall be not be liable or responsible to you, or be deemed to have defaulted under or breached this Agreement, for any failure or delay (and any related loss) in fulfilling or performing any term of this Agreement, when and to the extent our failure or delay is caused by or results from the following force majeure events (“Force Majeure Event(s)”): (i) acts of God; (ii) flood, fire, earthquake, or explosion; (iii) war, invasion, hostilities (whether war is declared or not), terrorist threats or acts, riot or other civil unrest; (iv) government order, law, or action; (v) national or regional emergency; (vi) telecommunication breakdowns or power outages or shortages; (vii) pandemic; and (viii) other similar events beyond our reasonable control.

#### **50. Miscellaneous**

- a. Entire Agreement. This Agreement, and the attachments thereto, represents the entire agreement between you and us with respect to the matters contemplated herein and supersedes all prior agreements.
- b. Ratification. You hereby ratify and confirm all transactions heretofore made and entered into with us.

- c. Successors and Assigns. This Agreement is binding on and inures to the benefit of the parties and their respective successors and assigns.
- d. Amendment. This Agreement may be amended from time to time by us upon written notification to you, which amendment shall become effective immediately upon delivery of the notice of such amendment to you at your email address or last known physical address in our sole discretion.
- e. Assignment and Transferability. We may assign or otherwise transfer your Account(s) to our successors and assigns.
- f. Severability. If any provisions or conditions of this Agreement become inconsistent with any Applicable Law or are deemed invalid or unenforceable by any arbitrator or court of competent jurisdiction, such provisions shall be deemed rescinded or modified, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, to make this Agreement in compliance with such law, rule or regulation, or to be valid and enforceable, but in all other respects, this agreement shall continue in full force or affect.
- g. No Waiver, Cumulative Nature of Rights and Remedies. Our failure to insist at any time upon strict compliance with any term contained in this Agreement, or any delay or failure on our part to exercise any power or right given to us in this Agreement, or a continued course of such conduct on our part, shall at no time operate as a waiver of such power or right, nor shall any single or partial exercise preclude any other further exercise. All rights and remedies given to us in this Agreement are cumulative and not exclusive of any other rights or remedies to which we are entitled.
- h. Headings. The headings in this Agreement are for reference only and do not affect the interpretation of this Agreement.
- i. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which is deemed an original, but all of which together is deemed to be one and the same agreement. A signed copy of this Agreement delivered by facsimile, e-mail, or other means of electronic transmission is deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement.

BY YOUR SIGNATURE ON THE APPLICATION, YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED, READ, UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO THE TERMS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AGREEMENT, AND THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PRE-DISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE AT SECTION 47.

**51. EXHIBITS**



**EXHIBIT A**

**Online Payment and Deposit Services Addendum**

**ONLINE PAYMENT AND DEPOSIT SERVICE ADDENDUM**  
**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**  
**[Rev. November 2023]**

Please note that capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the same meaning assigned such terms in the Account Owner Agreement (the “Agreement”). In the event of a conflict between this Payment Addendum (defined below) and the Agreement, the stricter term shall control.

You understand that check writing and the use of wire payments or Automated Clearing House transfers with respect to your Account are governed by the rules of the bank that facilitates such services for us, the Uniform Commercial Code, Federal and State laws and the terms and conditions set forth in our Terms and Conditions for Online Payment and Deposit Services, which is a part of this Agreement.

You agree that we may limit whether we accept or permit ACH (as defined below) transfers initiating or terminating through us. You also agree that if we permit such transactions, we may restrict the financial institutions to which you may direct cash via ACH from your Account and from which you may direct cash to your Account via ACH. We may also restrict your ability to withdraw the cash from your Account that has been deposited by ACH, by check, by wire or otherwise by limiting the methodology for withdrawal and/or by imposing a hold period.

You agree to pay fees for our and the bank’s expenses of providing the ACH and check writing services. These include, but are not limited to, fees for ordering checks, bounced checks or returned ACH transfers, stop payment requests, and dishonored checks that are deposited to your Account. Please consult our website for a current list of fees and charges.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR PAYMENT SERVICES**

These Terms and Conditions for Payment Services (“Payment Addendum”) apply if you have enrolled in any of the payment services we offer as described below (“Payment Services”). These terms and conditions are in addition to those found in your Agreement). Except as defined below, the terms we use in this Payment Addendum have the meanings as articulated in your Agreement. If any provision in this Payment Addendum conflicts or is inconsistent with any provision of your Agreement, the provisions of this Payment Addendum will control with respect to those Payment Services described below.

You agree that the Payment Services are subject to the applicable terms and conditions below (“Terms”) and the fees and charges set forth in our fee schedules, as we may amend these from time to time subject to applicable law and the terms of the Agreement. You further agree that each use of any Payment Service or the Payment Services means your agreement to be legally bound by the Terms and Fee Schedule,<sup>1</sup> as amended. The changes will be binding on you and any Authorized Person as of the date of the amendment. For purposes of this Payment Addendum, “business days” are Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays and days on which the New York Stock Exchange is closed for business.

**GENERAL TERMS**

**1. Description of Payment Services**

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<sup>1</sup> [This term is not defined in this addendum or the Agreement. Which Fee Schedule is being referred to and will such be attached to this addendum?]

For purposes of this Payment Addendum, “ACH” means any electronic fund transfer to or from the Account through a Money Transfer, a Direct Debit, or Direct Deposit transaction (all as defined below).

We may make any of the following Payment Services available to you in our sole and complete discretion: (1) check writing against funds in the Account, (2) ACH transfers initiated from your Account to debit or credit an ACH-eligible bank account titled in the same legal name as the Account (“Money Transfers”), (3) ACH transfers initiated at a third-party bank that result in a direct debit to your Account (“Direct Debit”) or a direct deposit to your Account from a third-party payor (“Direct Deposit”), and (4) transfers from your Account to third-party accounts at our or other financial institutions (also “Money Transfers”). We refer to debits via Money Transfer, and Direct Debits as an “ACH Payment” and collectively as “ACH Payments.” Some or all Payment Services may not be available for all Accounts and in some cases, not all of the Payment Services will be available at any one time. Please contact us determine your eligibility.

Check writing services are made available in conjunction with Dollar Bank (“Paying Bank”), pursuant to a contract between us and Paying Bank, subject to your acceptance of Paying Bank’s terms.

Services relating to outgoing wires and check requests are provided by Paying Bank. This Payment Addendum applies to any eligible Account that is currently, or may in the future be, enrolled in the Payment Services.

You understand that the Payment Services are self-directed, which we make available solely in our capacity as a broker-dealer. You agree that you are responsible for your use of the Payment Services and any Authorized Person that you have authorized to use Payment Services on your behalf.

## **2. Condition for Use, and Authorization to Use, Payment Services**

Your access to the Payment Services is subject to our review and approval. We may withdraw or limit your access at any time in our sole and complete discretion.

You authorize us and any of our employees, staff, representatives, and agents to process your application for the Payment Services. You consent to us and any of our employees, staff, representatives, and agents reviewing personally identifiable and financial information regarding your Account in connection with our review. You agree to keep current all information provided to us as a condition to enrollment and use of the Payment Services.

You authorize us to make credit inquiries about you or any Authorized Person that we consider necessary to process your application and to conduct any review of your application for or use of any Payment Service including, but not limited to, to verify your name, address, phone number, Social Security Number, and date of birth. You also authorize us to disclose the results of such inquiries we deem appropriate in our sole discretion to any agent, vendor or other third party necessary to make the Payment Services available to you.

By enrolling in the Money Transfer services, you hereby grant a standing authorization to us and our service providers to initiate credit entries and debit entries to your Account, including to process a Money Transfer. You also authorize us to make any necessary debit or credit adjustments to your Account to correct any entries made in error. Your standing authorization supersedes and replaces all prior authorizations and remains in full force and effect until we receive written notification from you of the termination or limitation of the authorization, in a time and manner as to afford us and our service providers reasonable opportunity to act on it.

You acknowledge the indemnification provisions of the Agreement apply to your use of the Payment Services.

### **3. Use of Authorized Persons**

To the extent you grant your Authorized Persons such authority, your Authorized Persons may initiate credit entries and debit entries between the Account and other eligible accounts under the standing authorization set forth above, and otherwise to use the Payment Services, in each case in your name, on your behalf and at your sole risk. The authority of any Authorized Persons you appoint may be limited in certain respects, based on our internal controls and procedures and the level of authorization you grant to your Authorized Person. You agree not to allow any person to authorize us to transfer funds to or from your Account or otherwise to use the Payment Services unless the authorization for that person is complete and we approve it. You also agree that you assume all liability for any acts or omissions of your Authorized Persons in using the Payment Services. We assume no liability for any use of the Payment Services by you or any Authorized Person appointed by you to access one or more of the Payment Services.

### **4. Security Procedures**

We will issue you a User ID and authorize one or more Passwords to access the Payment Services through our website. We will issue separate User IDs and Passwords to each Authorized Person to use your Account. You may be required to comply with other security procedures we, the Paying Bank or our service providers establish from time to time to verify the authenticity of any authorization or instruction to transfer funds to or from your Account. You agree to comply with these security procedures at all times and to not provide your User ID and Password, or any PIN, to others that are not authorized to use the Payment Services. You must notify us immediately if you know or suspect that the confidentiality of your (or any of your Authorized Person's) User IDs and Password(s) or PIN has been compromised.

You acknowledge and agree that the security procedures mandated by us, and our service providers are to protect your Account assets by verifying your identity and authenticating a payment instruction, not to detect an error in your payment instruction. We may reject any payment instruction if the User ID or Password is incorrect or if you do not adhere to the security procedures. To the fullest extent permitted by law, you are fully responsible for: (a) the confidentiality of the security procedures and any passwords, codes, security devices and related instructions we provide to you in connection with the security procedure; (b) all acts and omissions relating to the use of the Payment Services by any person who uses your (or any of your Authorized Person's) User ID and Password(s); and (c) any losses resulting from a failure by you or your Authorized Persons to comply with any security procedures established by us and our service providers from time to time. We reserve the right to require re-authorization of any standing recipient authorization provided to us and not used within a certain period.

### **5. Payment Limit**

Your Account is subject to a payment limit in using the Payment Services (the "Payment Limit"). The Payment Limit for your Account is the total amount available for check writing, Direct Debit transfers, Money Transfers, and wire transfers from your Account.

You understand that you are granting each of your Authorized Persons access to all of the funds in the Account up to the Payment Limit. The Payment Limit will be calculated and applied in the aggregate to all Account activity, including that of all Authorized Persons associated with a particular Account. The Payment Limit is calculated as the sum of: (a) free credit balances in your Account; (b) the value

of any funds in the Sweep under the Program or into a money market mutual fund held with us; and (c) the available margin in your Account (if your Account is a margin account); minus the sum of: (d) any debit amount owed us; (e) any pending buy orders and any amounts scheduled for payment or transfer under the Payment Services, or otherwise; and (f) any holds on deposits. The Payment Limit may be recalculated throughout the day. We reserve the right in our sole discretion and without notice to you to change the manner in which the Payment Limit is calculated.

Please note that other maximum volume and individual and/or aggregate dollar limitations on each type of Payment Service may apply, as discussed elsewhere in this Payment Addendum. In addition, we may impose, in our sole discretion, a limit as to the amount of check writing, ACH Payments, and wire transfers that may be drawn against and/or posted to your Account. We may change any such limits without prior notice to you, to the extent permitted by law. You agree to adhere to any such limits that are in effect from time to time.

Payment priority may vary based on the time of day when such payments are made and cleared in our system. You understand, notwithstanding anything else contained in this Payment Addendum, your Agreement or any other supplement or agreement, that we may in our discretion elect not to allow you to access or draw upon any margin loan to pay a check, or to make an ACH Payment or wire transfer for such purposes, and as a result, if other sources of cash are not available within your Account, the check may be returned unpaid, or any ACH Payment or wire transfer not completed. We reserve the right to delay or reject for any reason any check presented for payment, any ACH Payment or wire transfer, to the extent permitted by applicable law, including without limitation, because of an insufficient Payment Limit, for security, compliance, anti-fraud, or anti-money-laundering reasons, or a signature mismatch on a check, and you (and not us or the Paying Bank) will be liable for any consequences of that rejection. Please see our website for more information about fees that may apply.

If any debit to your Account remains unpaid after we have requested payment of that debit from you orally or in writing, then we are authorized to sell, liquidate, transfer or otherwise apply any asset of yours held by us or any of our affiliates or agents to satisfy that debit, without requiring further notice or demand before such action is taken. Liability for such debit shall survive termination of your Account. For margin-enabled accounts, an overdraft in your Account will lead to an increase in your margin debit, up to the limit of available margin in your Account.

If your Payment Limit is insufficient, or shall be made insufficient, at the time a check, an ACH Payment or wire transfer is presented for payment, that check may be returned or that payment or transfer rejected without payment due to insufficient funds.

## **6. Periodic Statements**

Your Account statement will include information about Payment Service activity on your Account. You will not receive any separate periodic statements from the Paying Bank for check, wire, or ACH payments.

## **7. Termination of Payment Services/Closure of Accounts**

You may terminate the check writing by giving us the notice required in the Agreement. In addition, this Payment Addendum or any Payment Services offered under this Payment Addendum may be terminated independently of the Agreement by us without notice. The Payment Services and this Payment Addendum will also be terminated automatically in the event the Account is closed, or for any other reason we establish.

In the event this Payment Addendum or any Payment Services offered under this Payment Addendum is terminated, you remain liable for all transactions covered by this Payment Addendum occurring before termination, including any checks written, or any wires or ACH Payments authorized, even if any such transactions are completed or settled after termination, as well as any other liabilities or obligations arising under this Payment Addendum prior to termination and thus you will remain liable for payments, transfers and other transactions in process, including all accrued fees and charges.

You will be notified promptly in writing if we terminate your privileges to write or initiate checks. You shall remain responsible for all checks written or wires or ACHs initiated with respect to your Account.

You must promptly destroy any unused checks (as applicable) when your Account is closed, or you terminate one or more of the Payment Services. We may require you to provide proof of destruction of your checks (as applicable) prior to releasing funds or assets in the Account to you.

## **ERRORS, IRREGULARITIES AND UNAUTHORIZED PAYMENTS**

### **1. Checks and Wires**

You agree and represent to us that you will examine your statements promptly upon receipt, and that you will report any errors, irregularities, or suspicious or unexplained check transactions no later than thirty (30) calendar days, and on any wire transfer or ACH payments no later than sixty (60) calendar days, after the earlier of the receipt of the Account statement or the date the statement is issued. If you fail to notify us of any such error or irregularities on any check within such 30-day period (or such longer period as may be mandated by law in the case of substitute checks), or any wire transfer or ACH payment to us within such 60-day period, you agree that we may assume that the statement is correct with respect to such check payments or wire transfers, and you waive any right to raise any such error or irregularity after the expiration of the applicable period.

### **2. Electronic Transfers**

For purposes of this Payment Addendum, “ACH” means any electronic fund transfer to or from the Account through a Money Transfer, a Direct Debit, or Direct Deposit transaction.

In case of errors or questions about an ACH, telephone us at (877) 819-8918, write us at P.O. Box 451340, Westlake, OH 44145, or email us at [ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com](mailto:ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com) as soon as you can. We must hear from you no later than sixty (60) days after we sent the FIRST statement on which the problem or error appeared. When you contact us: (1) tell us your name and Account number; (2) describe the error or transfer you are unsure about; (3) explain as clearly as you can why you believe it is an error or why you need more information; and (4) tell us the dollar amount of the suspected error. If you tell us orally, then we may require that you send us your complaint or question in writing within ten (10) business days. We may also request a signed affidavit from you.

We will determine whether an error occurred within ten (10) business days after we hear from you and will correct any error promptly. If we need more time, however, we may take up to forty-five (45) days to investigate your complaint or question. If we decide to do this, we will credit your Account within ten (10) business days for the amount you think is in error, so that you will have the use of the money during the time it takes us to complete our investigation. Note these funds will not be available for withdrawal while the error is investigated. If we ask you to put your complaint or question in writing and we do not receive it within ten (10) business days, we may not credit your Account.

For errors involving new Accounts or foreign-initiated transactions, we may take up to ninety (90) days to investigate your complaint or question. For new Accounts, we may take up to twenty (20) business days to credit your Account for the amount you think is in error.

We will tell you about the results within five (5) business days after completing our investigation. If we decide that there was no error, we will send you a written explanation.

Additional information about your responsibility and liability for unauthorized ACHs is described below.

## **CHECK WRITING PRIVILEGES**

### **1. Overview**

We may permit you to obtain check writing privileges that allow you and your Authorized Persons to write checks payable through the Paying Bank.

You agree to write checks only in U.S. dollars. Upon notice from the Paying Bank that a check drawn by you or your Authorized Persons on the Account has been presented for payment, we will debit your Account in the amount of such check. You may use the checks for any purpose permitted by law, including transferring funds between Accounts, except that you may not use the checks for the direct purchase of securities.

We or the Paying Bank may refuse to pay a check or other item which: (1) is illegible; (2) drawn in an amount greater than the amount of funds then available for withdrawal in your Account or which would, if paid, create an overdraft in your Account; (3) bears a duplicate check number; (4) appears, either to us or the Paying Bank, to have been altered; or (5) appears, in our or the Paying Bank's judgement, to bear an unauthorized signature. Further, we and the Paying Bank will not honor any restrictive legend on any check unless both we have agreed to do so in writing.

We reserve the right to withdraw check writing privileges from the Payment Services available on your Account for any reason, including your failure to write checks for a certain period of time.

### **2. Authorized Signers**

You must provide us with your manual signature as well as the manual signature of each Authorized Person you authorize to sign checks ("Authorized Signers"). We or the Paying Bank may honor checks drawn by an Authorized Signer, subject to this Payment Addendum. We and the Paying Bank may treat any signature on a check or other item as the signature of the indicated person when in the discretion of us or the Paying Bank the manual signature you have provided us or the Paying Bank resembles the signature of the indicated person on the check or other item, regardless of by whom or by what means the actual or purported signature may have been affixed on the check or other item. We or the Paying Bank may not pay and may return any check or other item when in the discretion of us or the Paying Bank the manual signature you have provided us or the Paying Bank does not resemble the signature of the indicated person on the check or other item, or a required signer's signature does not appear on the check or other item.

We or the Paying Bank may continue to honor checks and instructions by previously authorized agents of this privilege until you notify us in writing of a change in Authorized Signers by providing a new signature card, and we and the Paying Bank have had a reasonable time to act on the new signature card.

### **3. Post-dated Checks and Certain Other Checks**

You agree that when you write a check you will not date the check for a date in the future. If you do and the check is presented for payment before the date on the check, we or the Paying Bank may return it unpaid, but there is no obligation for either us or the Paying Bank to do so. If the check is paid it will be posted to your Account on the day of presentment and neither we nor the Paying Bank will be liable to you for paying the check prior to the date on the check or for any losses, you may incur as a result.

You understand and agree that neither we nor the Paying Bank will be liable for paying a check prior to the date shown on the face of the check, even if such payment results in an overdraft. You understand and agree that we or the Paying Bank may pay or refuse to pay, each at its sole discretion, any check that is presented for payment more than six months from the date shown on the face of the check or does not meet all the legal requirements of a check (such as a required endorsement). If there is no stop payment order on the check and the check is paid, it will be posted to your Account on the day of presentment and neither we nor the Paying Bank will be liable to you for paying the check without notice to you or for any losses you may incur as a result.

### **4. Stop Payments**

You and any other Authorized Signer may make a stop payment order on a check. You agree that we and the Paying Bank are authorized to accept a stop payment order on a check from any signer on your Account. There is a charge for each stop payment order requested, as disclosed in the Fee Schedule. You must provide us with the following information as a condition to accepting a stop payment order: (a) Account number; (b) date on the check; (c) check number; (d) exact amount (dollars and cents) of the check; (e) the name of payee; (f) information which we may require to verify your identity; and (g) other information we reasonably require. If you do not provide us any of the required information or is incorrect, we and the Paying Bank will not be responsible for failing to effectuate the stop payment order.

To stop payment on a check, you must give us and the Paying Bank reasonable opportunity to act on the stop payment order before final payment of the check. We may require you to confirm the stop payment order in writing. A stop payment order cannot be acted on once the check has been paid, certified, or accepted by either us or the Paying Bank. We may charge a fee in connection with a stop payment order, as disclosed in the Fee Schedule.

Stop payment orders that we receive after 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on any business day or at any time on a day that is not a business day for either us or the Paying Bank will be considered to have been received at the beginning of the next day that is a business day for both us and the Paying Bank. As a result, for example, a stop payment order received after 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on a business day of us and the Paying Bank will be too late to stop payment of a check which must be paid or returned by midnight of that day.

Each stop payment order will remain in effect for one year and will not be automatically renewed. If the check is still outstanding after that time, you may request another stop payment order for the additional fee specified in the Fee Schedule. You agree that if a stop payment order is not renewed in writing, we or the Paying Bank may, at its discretion, return or pay an item presented after the expiration of the order.



## **5. Substitute Checks and Check Images**

You agree that the Paying Bank and other banks in the check collection process may truncate your original check and convert it to a check image, substitute check or image replacement document, and may treat such item for all purposes as if it were the original check. For purposes of this Payment Addendum, the term “check” or “item”, as applicable, means the original check; a substitute check created by a bank; or (iii) a check image or an image replacement document that replaces the original check.

## **6. Copies**

You acknowledge and agree that you will not be provided the checks, images or copies of the checks you have drawn that have been paid with your statement. At your request, we will provide you with copies of checks you have drawn that have been paid. A fee may be imposed for us to request that the Paying Bank provide you with a copy of an image of a paid check. Please see the Fee Schedule posted on our website for more information.

### **DIRECT DEBITS**

The Direct Debit Payment Service allows you to arrange for third parties to submit ACH debit entries to your Account on a one-time or periodic and/or recurring basis. We will debit your Account in accordance with the ACH payment instruction we receive. It is your sole responsibility to ensure that the information regarding this third-party payment is accurate. For your protection, we may contact you to verify Direct Debit payments over certain dollar amounts. We reserve the right, from time to time, to impose limitations on the number, frequency, and dollar amount of a Direct Debit payment and to return or refuse to pay such Direct Debits that exceed those limits. We or our agent may use any funds transfer system, to complete any Direct Debit instruction, including without limitation to the ACH system. Any Direct Debit payment shall be subject to the applicable rules of such funds transfer system, including the rules of the National Automated Clearing House Association (“NACHA Rules”) for ACH transactions, and you agree that these rules govern Direct Debit transactions, as amended from time to time.

In the event of an erroneous Direct Debit payment, you authorize us to initiate a debit or credit to your Account to correct the error, or to attempt to reverse or return the Direct Debit payment. We are not obligated to send you a separate notice if a Direct Debit payment is rejected.

### **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

The Direct Deposit Payment Service allows you to set up a direct deposit to your Account by directing a third party to deposit funds into your Account on a one-time or recurring basis. You are solely responsible for the terms of your authorization with any person or entity making a Direct Deposit to your Account. We will accept Direct Deposits when a third party (including any federal or state governmental agency) sends us a Direct Deposit designated for deposit to your Account. Our receipt of the Direct Deposit is dependent on the payor using the correct account information for your Account and following the applicable rules and regulations. Any Direct Deposit that we post to your Account is provisional until we receive final payment for the Direct Deposit through the automated clearing house network. If we do not receive final payment, if we receive documentation satisfactory to us that a payment was made to your Account in error or for an erroneous amount, or if any federal or state governmental agency claims that you were not entitled to benefits deposited directly to your Account, we may reverse the Direct Deposit and you agree that we may debit your Account for the amount so credited and reimburse us if the funds in your Account are insufficient to cover such debit.

## MONEY TRANSFERS

You may instruct us to initiate Money Transfers: (i) to transfer funds on a one-time or recurring basis from your Account to another account having the same legal name, or to a third-party account with us or at another financial institution; and (ii) to transfer funds from one or more accounts having the same legal name that you maintain at another financial institution to your Account. For purposes of this Payment Addendum, references to “same legal name” accounts include transfers between joint accounts and the individual accounts of joint account owners or, in the case of revocable trusts, individual and/or joint accounts and trust accounts where the beneficial owner(s) are the same. To the extent that you have permitted them to do so, agents (including Authorized Persons) authorized to use your Account also may be given authority to initiate such transfers, under the standing instructions set forth in this Payment Addendum.

When you first authorize a payment from or to your Account to another account in the same legal name through the Money Transfer service, you agree that you authorize us to verify the ownership of the account through any means we or Paying Bank determine to be appropriate. No such verification process will occur for third-party transfers.

We will debit or credit your Account in accordance with the terms of the payment instruction we receive from you, if it complies with the requirements of this Payment Addendum and applicable law. For your protection, we may contact you to verify payments over certain dollar amounts. We may contract with an unaffiliated bank or other entity to act as agent for us in processing the transaction and we or our agent may use any funds transfer system, correspondent banking relationship, or book transfers to complete your payment instruction, including without limitation the ACH system. Your payment instruction shall be subject to the applicable rules of such funds transfer system, including the rules of the NACHA Rules for ACH transactions, and you agree to be bound by such rules, as amended from time to time.

Any payment instruction received on a day after the applicable cut-off time established by us, or any unaffiliated bank or other entity acting as agent or service provider for us, on a weekend, or on a day that is not a business day for us (or that bank or entity acting as agent or service provider for us), will be treated as received on the next business day.

Execution of your payment instructions will occur based on the account number specified in the payment instruction, regardless of the account name associated with that account number. We and the other financial institutions to which a payment instruction is forwarded may rely on any bank identification number supplied by you to identify any other financial institution, even if the identification number does not match the account name you identify.

You agree that you have all necessary authorizations to initiate a Money Transfer to or from the accounts designated in your payment instruction. You also hereby make the same representations and warranties to us as we (or any bank or entity acting as agent or service provider for us) are deemed to make under the NACHA Rules.

In the event of an erroneous payment instruction or Money Transfer, you authorize us to initiate a debit or credit to your Account to correct the error, or to attempt to reverse or return the payment instruction or Money Transfer. We are not obligated to send you a separate notice if a Money Transfer you request is returned, and we will not process a returned Money Transfer a second time.

It is your sole responsibility to ensure that the biller’s contact information you provide to us is current and accurate. Changes can be made either through our website or by contacting us. All changes made are effective immediately for scheduled and future payments. We and the Bill Pay Service Provider are not

responsible for any payment processing errors or fees incurred if you do not provide accurate biller account or contact information.

### **ADDITIONAL TERMS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN ACHs**

#### **1. Stop Recurring Payments on Money Transfers and Bill Payments**

If you have authorized us or any other persons in advance to initiate periodically recurring debits to your Account by means of ACHs, you can stop any of these payments online through our website or by calling us.

We must receive your stop payment request at least three (3) business days before the next payment or scheduled transfer date. Otherwise, we will make every effort to accommodate your request, but our ability (or that of service providers that we may use to provide you the Payment Services) to process a stop payment request will depend on several factors, and we may not have a reasonable opportunity to act on any stop payment request after a payment has been processed. If your stop payment request is not received at least three (3) business days before the next payment or scheduled transfer date, neither we, nor our service providers, will have any liability for any losses or damages.

#### **2. Unauthorized Transfers**

Tell us **IMMEDIATELY** (in addition to contacting Paying Bank) if you believe your User ID and Password used to access the Payment Services on your Account (each an “Access Device”) has been lost or stolen, or you believe an unauthorized person is initiating ACHs to or from your Account. You could lose all the funds and the value of the securities in your Account (plus your maximum margin line). If you learn that your Access Device is lost or stolen, or you believe your Account has been otherwise accessed by an unauthorized person, and you tell us within two (2) business days of learning of the loss or unauthorized access, you can lose no more than \$50 if someone used your Access Device, or otherwise initiated ACHs (including transfers under the Direct Debit or Money Transfer service) without your permission.

If you do NOT tell us within two (2) business days after you learn of the loss, any suspected unauthorized access to your Account, or that other ACHs are being initiated without your permission (including through Direct Debit or Money Transfer), and we can prove it could have stopped someone from using your Access Device, or initiating ACHs without your permission (including through Direct Debit or Money Transfer) if you had told us, you could lose as much as \$500. Also, if your statement shows transactions or other ACHs (including Direct Debit or Money Transfers payments) that you did not make, tell us at once. If you do not tell us within sixty (60) days after the statement was mailed to you or made available to you on our website, you may not get back any money you lost after the sixty (60) days if we can prove that we could have stopped someone from taking the money if you had told us in time.

We have the option to extend the time periods in our sole discretion upon your showing of a good reason that kept you from telling us. If you contact us by telephone, we or our agents or processors may require written documentation evidencing the unauthorized use, such as an affidavit or other dispute form.

#### **3. Accounts That Are Not Consumer (Natural Person) Accounts/Non-personal Accounts.**

If you are not a “consumer” as defined in Regulation E, we are not required to respond to your questions about ACHs within the time periods specified with respect to such transfers, and the limitations on your

liability for unauthorized ACHs described above do not apply. Further, such limitations are applicable only to you as the Account holder and do not extend to any other person to limit or reduce such other person's liability to the extent that such person has guaranteed, assured or agreed to indemnify or hold us harmless with respect to checks written or ACHs presented or posted against your Account. Similarly, the parameters surrounding liability and documentation requirements with respect to ACHs apply only with respect to Accounts established primarily for personal, family or household purposes.

If you are not a "consumer" as defined in Regulation E, to the extent permitted by law, you are solely responsible for all ACH transactions initiated on your Account using your login information. Any ACH transaction initiated with your Account login information is presumed to have been authorized by you. In addition, to the extent permitted by law, you agree not to assert a claim against us or our service providers (including the Paying Bank) concerning any erroneous or unauthorized ACH reflected on your Account statement unless you have notified us of the erroneous or unauthorized ACH as soon as possible, but in any event within thirty (30) days after we notify you that your Account statement is available. If you do not notify us of an erroneous or unauthorized ACH within the required period of time, your Account statement will be deemed to be correct.

**EXHIBIT B**

**Margin Disclosure Statement**



**MARGIN DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY**  
**[Rev. November 2023]**

This is important information regarding margin borrowing if you have requested such privileges for your brokerage account (“Account”). We encourage you to retain this document in your files.

We are furnishing this document to you to provide some basic facts about purchasing securities on margin, and to alert you to the risks involved with trading securities in a margin account. A complete list of terms and conditions pertaining to margin trading are in the Account Owner Agreement, which we will provide to you upon opening your Account or you can access at any time on our website or by calling us. Please read the Account Owner Agreement before opening a margin account.

You may pay for your securities purchases by using your available cash or you may borrow part of the purchase price from us using margin. **Margin is a loan.** When you use margin, you borrow money from us and pledge to us all of the securities and other property in your Account as collateral for those loan(s). You are responsible for determining whether using margin is appropriate for you. You understand that even if you decide that margin is appropriate for you, we determine whether we will make a margin loan to you and permit you to open a margin account with us.

By requesting to open a margin account, you understand that using margin is risky and agree to the risks associated with using margin, including, but not limited to the following:

**Using margin to purchase securities increases your level of market risk.** Margin trading allows you to purchase a greater amount of securities than had you only used the cash in your Account. Therefore, your exposure to market volatility increases and a declining market could result in even greater losses.

**You can lose more money than you deposited in your Account.** You may face a “margin call” if the securities you bought on margin decline in value, which would require you to deposit additional funds to prevent the forced sale of those or other securities or assets in your Account.

**We can establish margin requirements that are more stringent than what is required by the Federal Reserve Board, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. (FINRA) or any other applicable regulatory standard. We may also increase our maintenance margin requirements at any time without notifying you in advance.** Any increase in our requirements take effect immediately and may also immediately result in a margin call to you.

**If you cannot meet a margin call, then we can sell your securities and other assets in your Account without notifying you in advance.** We may attempt to contact you if you have a margin call. However, you understand that we are not required to do so, and we can sell any securities or other assets in any your Accounts with us without notice to protect our financial interests.

**You will incur fees and other charges when we sell your securities to meet a margin call.** You will incur fees and charges for these transactions as described in our then-current fee schedule. You may also incur tax consequences for these transactions.

**You are not entitled to choose which securities we sell to meet a margin call.** Your assets with us are collateral for the margin loan(s) that we extend to you. We may choose which assets to sell to meet your margin call in our sole and absolute discretion.

**You are not entitled to an extension time to meet a margin call.** You do not have a right to an extension. If we grant you additional time to meet a margin call at any point, it does not preclude our right to decline any future requests for an extension.

**If your assets are insufficient to meet what you owe us, then you must deposit additional cash or assets into your Account to satisfy your debt.** We expect you to add assets to your Account as soon as possible to satisfy any debts you owe us. Please note that you will be responsible for our costs and fees if we have to commence legal proceedings to collect the amount you owe us.

**EXHIBIT C**

**Margin Account Addendum**



**MARGIN ACCOUNT ADDENDUM**  
**[Rev. January 2024]**

This Margin Account Addendum (“Margin Addendum”) will apply in the event the Account Owner (“Owner” or “you”) has requested and obtains a margin account (“Margin Account”) with ETC Brokerage Services (“ETC Brokerage” or “we”). The terms and conditions set forth herein are in addition to those found in your Account Owner Agreement (“Agreement”). Except as defined below, the terms we use in this Margin Addendum have the meanings as articulated in your Agreement. If any provision in this Margin Addendum conflicts or is inconsistent with any provision of your Agreement, the provisions of this Margin Addendum will control with respect to your Margin Account.

By signing the Agreement to which this Margin Addendum is attached, you agree that your Margin Account is subject to the applicable terms and conditions below (“Terms”) and the fees and charges set forth in our fee schedules, if any, as we may amend these from time to time subject to applicable law and the terms of the Agreement. You further agree that maintaining your Margin Account after such amendment constitutes your agreement to be legally bound by these Terms, as amended. The changes will be binding on you and any Authorized Person as of the date of the amendment.

**ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

- 1. Acknowledgment.** You acknowledge that by applying for a Margin Account, you have carefully considered all of the factors set forth in this Margin Addendum, the Margin Disclosure Statement, attached as Exhibit B to the Agreement, and the Agreement and agree that the use of margin borrowing is suitable for you given your financial condition, tolerance for risk and investment objectives. You further acknowledge that borrowing on margin involves a high degree of risk and that you should discuss the use of margin with your professional advisors, if any, before engaging in margin transactions.
- 2. Other Agreements.** In addition to the Terms, you acknowledge and agree that your Margin Account will be subject to the terms and conditions of all other agreements entered into between you and ETC Brokerage, including but not limited to the Agreement or any successor agreement. Those agreements are incorporated herein by reference as a part of this Margin Addendum. You hereby represent, warrant and agree that you have received and read a copy of the Agreement, this Margin Addendum and the Margin Disclosure Statement and shall abide by the terms of each as currently in effect or as they may be amended from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt, all provisions of the Agreement not in conflict with the provisions contained herein shall apply to your Margin Account. You specifically acknowledge and agree that the provisions of the Agreement related to securities transactions and settlement, payment of indebtedness, limitation of ETC Brokerage’s liability to you, provisions applicable to joint accounts, sales made by you, the delivery of securities, cancellation of orders, confirmations and statements, and information regarding Securities Investor Protection Corporation or “SIPC” protection shall apply to your Margin Account.
- 3. Extension of Credit.** Margin transactions involve the extension of credit by ETC Brokerage to you to purchase securities. Upon your request and subject to the terms and conditions herein, ETC Brokerage may agree to extend credit to you in ETC Brokerage’s sole discretion. ETC Brokerage also reserves the right not to extend credit on any security or to increase our requirements for, or to cease extending credit altogether on, any security at any time without notice. The assets held in your Margin Account will be collateral for any such extension of credit. As agreed in the Agreement, ETC Brokerage may obtain reports concerning your creditworthiness and business conduct. Upon your request, you may

obtain a copy of any said reports.

4. **Minimum Margin Requirements.** Initial margin requirements established by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve specify the minimum amount of collateral you must provide when you buy securities on margin. The requirement is expressed as a percentage of the purchase price. It may change from time to time, and it may be a different percentage for different types of securities.
5. **Maintenance of Margin.** You agree to maintain such positions and margin as required by Regulation T and all other applicable statutes, rules and regulations, or as may be deemed necessary by ETC Brokerage. Additional requirements may be more stringent than those required by law or exchange regulations. Such requirements may be changed or modified without prior notice to you. If the securities in your Account decline in value, so does the value of the collateral supporting your extension of credit, and, as a result, ETC Brokerage can take action, such as issue a margin call and/or sell securities or other assets in any of your accounts held with ETC Brokerage in order to maintain the required equity in your Account. You acknowledge that there is no requirement of ETC Brokerage to provide notice to you of a margin deficiency. It is important that you fully understand the risks involved in trading securities on margin. You agree to pay on demand any debit balance owed on your Margin Account, including fees and any costs of collection. You are responsible for monitoring the status of your Margin Account, for ensuring that sufficient collateral is maintained in your Margin Account and for liquidating positions to minimize losses. You will be liable for any deficiencies in your Margin Account in the event of liquidation, in whole or in part, by you or ETC Brokerage. All payments received in your Margin Account, including dividends, interest, premiums and principal payments may be applied to the balance due in your Margin Account. **If you do not meet a margin call, ETC Brokerage may liquidate securities in the Account to the extent necessary to satisfy the call. ETC Brokerage may require you to deposit additional collateral in the form of cash or securities in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, any applicable exchange, or any other regulatory agency, to whose jurisdiction ETC Brokerage may be subject.**
6. **Interest on Margin.** You agree to be charged interest on any credit extended to or maintained for you for the purpose of purchasing, carrying, or trading in any security. ETC Brokerage will charge interest on a daily basis on the credit that we extend to you. The margin interest rate is set at the discretion of ETC Brokerage with references to the general credit markets, the broker call rate and general industry conditions relating to the extension of margin credit. The margin interest rate will change without notice to you as changes occur in the general credit markets, the broker call rate and general industry conditions relating to the extension of margin credit, at ETC Brokerage's discretion. ETC Brokerage makes available the current margin interest rate at the following link on ETC Brokerage's website: <https://etcbrokerage.com/resources/>. ETC Brokerage will update the information displayed at that website to reflect any adjustments in the margin interest rate so that you may check the current margin interest rate at any time. We base our daily margin interest rate on a 360-day year and calculate interest for each day by dividing the applicable margin interest rate shown on our website by 360. Interest charges will accrue to your Margin Account each day and we will add these charges to the aggregate debit balance monthly and charge interest on the new aggregate debit balance from that day forward. You will be provided a statement that will show the dollar amount of interest and the interest rate charged to your Margin Account for each interest rate applied during the period covered by the statement.
7. **Additional Collateral.** Securities in your Margin Account are registered in ETC Brokerage's name and are collateral for any margin extension of credit. You still receive credit for all dividends or interest payments on these shares and your Margin Account will be charged for any dividends or interest on short positions. If there is a decline in the market value or liquidity of securities that are the

collateral for your loan or other circumstances where, in ETC Brokerage’s and/or your Authorized Person’s judgment, adequate collateral does not exist, it may be necessary to request additional collateral for your Margin Account. ETC Brokerage may require you to deposit additional collateral in the form of cash or securities in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, any applicable exchange, or any other regulatory agency, to whose jurisdiction ETC Brokerage may be subject. ETC Brokerage may also increase its “house” maintenance margin requirements at any time and is not required to provide you with advance notice. These changes in ETC Brokerage’s policy often take effect immediately and may result in the issuance of a maintenance margin call. Your failure to satisfy the call may cause ETC Brokerage to liquidate or sell securities in your Account(s). Until written revocation confirmation is received by ETC Brokerage, this Margin Addendum constitutes your continuing consent to take such actions as necessary subject to the terms and conditions herein. Upon such written revocation, and payment for all balances due to ETC Brokerage, ETC Brokerage will deliver such securities to you if so requested.

- 8. Hypothecation of Securities.** For any amount due on your Margin Account, you authorize ETC Brokerage to pledge, re-pledge, and hypothecate or re-hypothecate your securities without notice to you, either separately or with securities of other bona fide clients. You represent that you will not allow any securities in any of your accounts to become subject to liens, security interests or other encumbrances. You further represent that you are not controlled by or in control of any issuer of any security you have provided as collateral to ETC Brokerage.
- 9. Liquidation.** As provided above, you acknowledge that securities held in your Margin Account may be liquidated without notice to satisfy minimum maintenance or margin calls. You are not entitled to choose which securities or other assets in your Account(s) are liquidated or sold by ETC Brokerage to meet a margin call. You are not entitled to an extension of time to meet a margin call. While an extension of time to meet margin requirements may be available to you under certain conditions, you do not have a right to the extension. Without limitation, any of the following circumstances may give rise for ETC Brokerage to exercise this power: (i) your failure to promptly meet any call for additional collateral; (ii) the filing of a petition in bankruptcy by or against you; (iii) the appointment of a receiver is filed by or against you; (iv) a significant judgment is entered against you, or any levy is made on your Account(s); and (v) the occurrence of any event which, in ETC Brokerage’s judgment, operates to impair its ability to perform its obligations under this Margin Supplement. In any such event, and without further notice, you authorize ETC Brokerage to (i) sell any securities held in your account(s); (ii) buy any securities which may be short; (iii) cancel any open order; (iv) to close any outstanding order; and (v) otherwise take any action deemed necessary to comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations or any other requirements governing your Margin Account. If for any reason ETC Brokerage delays or forgoes for a period the enforcement of its margin requirements, ETC Brokerage’s subsequent enforcement or right to enforce is not thereby waived.

*Current Margin Interest Rate Schedule as Determined by ETC Brokerage*

By signing the Agreement to which this Margin Addendum is attached, you certify that you acknowledge and agree to the current margin interest rate (as found on <https://etcbrokerage.com/resources/> and the below-listed rate schedule applicable to your Margin Account.

For ETC Brokerage Use Only:



**EXHIBIT D**

**RESERVED**



**EXHIBIT E**

**RESERVED**



## **EXHIBIT F**

### **Insured Deposit Program's Terms and Conditions**

## **INSURED DEPOSIT PROGRAM'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

**[Rev. October 2023]**

Every Account with us is eligible for, and may participate in, the Insured Deposit Program (the “Program”). This document (the “Addendum”) contains terms and conditions and other important information about this Program. These terms and conditions are in addition to those found in your Account Owner Agreement (the “Agreement”). Except as defined below, the terms we use in the Addendum have the meanings as articulated in your Agreement.

### **THE PROGRAM**

Our Program provides for an automatic deposit of the uninvested cash from your brokerage account (also referred to as an “Account”) that you maintain with us into one or more Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (“FDIC”)-insured bank accounts, subject to the terms of this Addendum. We refer to this part of the Program as the “Sweep”. Cash not included in the Program is held by us as free credit balances and may be used by us as permitted by law and regulation, including to support margin loans that we extend to our customers. Cash held as free credits in your Account before it is swept into the Program is protected by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), subject to its coverage limitations.

Your continued maintenance of your Account with us constitutes your acknowledgement of, and agreement to, the terms and conditions provided in this Addendum, as we may modify them from time to time. It also constitutes your acknowledgement of, and agreement that, you make the decision to participate in the Program and that we are not acting as a fiduciary as defined by the Internal Revenue Code on behalf of your IRA with respect to any aspect of the Program (or any changes thereto). Please note that we may refuse any deposit of cash into your Account, restrict participation of your Account in the Program, decline to permit your account from participating in the Program at any time on a going forward basis and close any Account in our sole discretion, for any reason we deem appropriate and without prior notice.

You appoint us as your authorized agent and custodian pursuant to the terms and conditions of your Agreement, including this Addendum, and acknowledge and agree that we may engage third parties (including affiliates) to act on our behalf, or on your behalf, with respect to the Program. Currently no bank will accept any instructions concerning your cash on deposit with a Program Bank (as defined below) unless we transmit such instructions.

We can change the features or products that are included in the Program to include any legally permissible deposit account or instrument, or we can terminate any or all of the products in the Program and hold some or all of your cash only as free credits as noted above. If any change then requires prior notice to you and/or your consent under applicable law or regulation, then we will provide such notice and/or seek such consent to the extent so required. Please contact us for specific details on current interest rates, Program Limits (as defined below), or other details concerning the Program.

Participation in the Program does not guarantee any or all of your excess cash balance will be swept to a Program Bank, and all sweeps shall be in our sole discretion. Generally, we will withdraw cash from your Account in the following manner. Cash necessary to satisfy debit entries in your Account will, generally, first be automatically withdrawn from free credit balances. If any debit entries remain in your Account, we then will automatically withdraw cash from your Sweep cash maintained as part of the Program or we may debit your other free credits held by us. If there is no debit entry on the amount held in your Account once credited, the cash will be placed into Sweep as set forth below.

## LOCATION OF CASH HOLDINGS

Cash held in Sweep will either be (i) deposited in one or more FDIC-insured depository institutions (such institutions may be affiliated with us) under the Program ("Program Bank(s)"), or (ii) partly deposited in Program Banks and partly held as SIPC-covered free credits in your Account. The Program may include banks introduced to us by third parties and/or with which we have an existing or separate business relationship unrelated to the Program, which could include holding our or an affiliate's proprietary or other accounts, providing financing or otherwise. You have the right to request that your assets not be placed at certain Program Banks, which you may exercise by contacting us in writing.

Cash in your Account to the extent deposited with a bank, and not maintained by us as SIPC-covered free credits, is a "bank deposit" at such Program Bank and such deposit is solely held by the Program Bank and not us. We act only as agent and custodian for your deposit and you are the "depositor."

We inform you as part of your statement which Program Bank(s) hold deposits on your behalf due to your participation in the Program and/or the amount of cash that we hold as free credits in your Account that is not in a Program Bank. We may change Program Banks from time to time in our sole discretion, but we will provide written notice at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to adding or deleting a Program Bank.

Cash that you hold at a Program Bank is held in separate accounts that we establish on your behalf and is evidenced by a book entry on each Program Bank's account records. We will not issue you any evidence of ownership, such as a passbook or certificate. Accordingly, all transactions involving a Program Bank as part of the Program must be made through us. You may contact us to obtain information about your balances held on each Program Bank's records, activity in your account, and the interest rate(s) paid to you.

If any Program Bank declines to accept any additional cash deposits that are covered by the Program or withdraws, or is terminated, from participating in the Program, then you agree that we, as your agent, are authorized by you to move your cash deposit to one or more other Program Banks, to a free credit held by us in your Account and/or, with prior notice to you, or as otherwise permitted by applicable law or regulation, to another cash sweep investment alternative outside of the Program.

You are to direct all questions regarding the Program and any Program Bank to us, not to any of the Program Banks.

## REGULATORY STATUS OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

All Program Banks are depository institutions duly chartered under Federal or state law, the deposits of which are insured by the FDIC. We are not a bank. We are a broker-dealer registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") and a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. ("FINRA") and SIPC. All cash in your Account under the Program is either deposited in FDIC-insured deposit accounts at one or more Program Banks or held by us as free credits in your Account where it is subject to SIPC coverage, but not FDIC insurance.

## INSURANCE COVERAGE UNDER THE PROGRAM

**Any insurance coverage discussed below does not protect against investment losses from the decline in the market value of securities due to market fluctuation.**

a. *Cash Held in the Program - FDIC*

All cash deposits in the Program Banks by account ownership category as recognized by the FDIC are



covered by insurance from the FDIC up to certain amounts. Currently, the FDIC provides insurance up to Standard Maximum Deposit Insurance Amount (“SMDIA”) of \$250,000 per account ownership category, aggregated across all deposits held by you in the same account ownership category at the same bank. By way of illustration, an individual account that you may own is in a different ownership category than a joint account that you may own with another). The current FDIC recognized account ownership categories are listed on the FDIC’s website (<http://www.fdic.gov>) and may change from time to time.

Under the Program, we seek to provide you with access to FDIC insurance coverage on your cash funds swept into the Program up to the Program Limit (per depositor per FDIC legal category of ownership) by placing your cash, by account ownership category, in deposit accounts at multiple Program Banks. The Program Limit is set by us in our sole and absolute discretion. You may contact us to find out the Program Limit at any time.

**Please note that if you establish and maintain cash deposits at any of the Program Banks outside the Program, then your cash balances held directly at the Program Bank in the same FDIC legal category of account ownership would count toward the total amount of your cash that will be covered by FDIC insurance at that Program Bank in that account ownership category.**

Your cash swept into the Program is covered by FDIC insurance (up to the Program Limit per depositor per FDIC legal category of account ownership) immediately by us, as agent for you under the Program, placing your cash in the deposit accounts at the Program Banks. Cash that is in transit between us and a Program Bank may pass through an intermediary bank. If so, then it would be eligible for FDIC insurance subject to the SMDIA per depositor per FDIC legal ownership category. If we use a single intermediary bank in the administration of the Program, then it is possible that your cash in transit at an intermediary bank will exceed SMDIA. Any cash in excess of SMDIA will not be covered by FDIC insurance until it is deposited into one or more Program Banks. It also would not be subject to SIPC coverage.

If your cash swept into the Program exceeds the Program Limit, your cash in excess of the Program Limit will be placed, at our discretion, into either one Program Bank, across one or more of the Program Banks and/or held in free credits with us in your Account. In this instance, the excess cash deposit amount will not be covered by FDIC insurance, but it may be subject to SIPC coverage to the extent permitted to the extent some or all of the excess cash is held as free credits in your Account.

You may obtain information concerning any or all of the Program Banks at <http://www.ffiec.gov/nicpubweb/nicweb/nichome.aspx>. You may obtain additional information about FDIC insurance from <http://www.fdic.gov/deposit/deposits/index.html> or by contacting the FDIC Public Information Center by e-mail at [publicinfo@fdic.gov](mailto:publicinfo@fdic.gov); by telephone at (877) 275-3342 or (703) 562-2200; or by mail at 3501 North Fairfax Drive, Room E-1005, Arlington, VA 22226.

b. *Cash Not Held in the Program - SIPC*

If your cash is not held in a Program Bank or is not in transit as part of the Program, then we will hold it in your Account as free credits. In addition, cash deposits received into your Account with us by check, electronic funds transfer, or wire or as a result of the settlement of securities sales transactions, prior to deposit into a Program Bank as Sweep, may also be held by us as free credits.

Accounts are subject to SIPC coverage, which generally covers securities and cash in an Account up to \$500,000 (including up to \$250,000 for cash). The maximum SIPC coverage available to you is based on the assets you have in brokerage accounts generally (and not just in the Program) with the same “capacity” as defined by SIPC. You should review SIPC’s definition of separate capacity carefully as you consider the potential amount of SIPC coverage applicable to your account(s). Additional information and a brochure

explaining SIPC coverage is available on the SIPC website (<http://www.sipc.org>).

### **INTEREST RATES**

The current interest rates paid under the Program are available on our websites. If the interest paid on your cash is material to your decision as to where to have an investment account, you should compare our rates with those available at other institutions. You may also wish to compare the terms, rates of return, required minimum amounts, charges and other features of our Program with other accounts and alternative investments at other financial institutions.

We calculate the yield you earn on amounts deposited in the Program based on the net interest rate paid by the Program Banks (the “Formula”). We reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to change the Formula itself and apply a new Formula to the calculation of interest to be paid to your account as part of the Program, so long as we provide notice of a Formula change by posting the notice of the change on our websites and making the change effective no sooner than thirty calendar (30) days after the date of such notice for existing accounts, or after the date of such notice for new accounts. However, changes in the amounts calculated to be paid to you under the Formula, after it is effective, because of: increases or decreases in the net interest rate; changes based on the amount of cash you have with us from time to time; changes made by you; changes in fees from service providers; or similar events, will be made without any notice to you. At our discretion and notwithstanding the Formula, we reserve the right, without providing you thirty calendar (30) days prior notice, to increase the amount we pay you, when doing so is legally permitted. You may contact us at the addresses shown on our websites to obtain additional information about the Formula and the frequency of calculation.

We will send you 1099-INT forms annually for each taxable account you hold with us indicating the amount of interest paid to you by the Program Banks when the amount of interest paid to you equals or exceeds the threshold amount requiring us to report interest. We will not prepare 1099-INT forms for accounts where the interest paid is below the reportable amount.

### **RISK OF LOSS FOR TRANSIT TO PROGRAM BANKS**

For the purpose of transmitting cash from Program Banks to us, and from us to the accounts at the Program Banks, we assume the responsibility and the risk of loss for any cash transfers of yours that have been delivered by you to us in an agreed upon manner.

### **RELEASE OF LIABILITY OF BANKS**

Withdrawals will be deemed paid by a particular Program Bank when such cash is transmitted by such Program Bank to our account and such Program Bank will be released from all liability for such withdrawn cash once the Program Bank delivers the cash to us. The Program Banks are not responsible for our actions with respect to the Program or otherwise.

### **WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

By participating in the Program, you expressly give consent for Federal or state regulators to access your customer account information for audit and review purposes and expressly agree that we may provide your information to any Program Bank for purposes of operations under the Program and for purposes of FDIC insurance.



**EXHIBIT G**

**E-SIGN DISCLOSURE AND CONSENT**

## E-SIGN DISCLOSURE AND CONSENT

*This E-Sign Disclosure and Consent (the “Consent”) documents your consent to electronically receive communications, documents and other information relative to your brokerage account(s), and to utilize your electronic signature in lieu of signing paper documents. This Consent also describes your rights relative to electronically receiving documents as well as consequences of withdrawing your consent. Please read this disclosure and consent carefully and save and/or print a copy for your files.*

For purposes of this Consent, whether or not capitalized, “we” refers to ETC Brokerage Services, LLC, and “you,” “your” or “yourself” means each person or entity that has an ownership interest in the applicable brokerage account(s).

### **E-Sign Act.**

Federal regulations require that we provide you with certain documents or communications: (1) at the time you contract for services and/or before you use those services for the first time and (2) when you authorize transfers from your deposit account to your or someone else’s credit card or loan account; and, that the document or communication be in writing in a form that you may keep. The Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (“E-Sign Act”) allows us to provide you with documents or communications in electronic form rather than in written form and allows you to use your electronic signature in lieu of signing a paper document if you consent after we have provided you with the following information.

### **Intent to Use Electronic Signatures**

You affirmatively consent and agree that you are signing this Consent electronically and your electronic signature on agreements and documents has the same effect as if you signed them in ink. You further agree that your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature. You further affirmatively consent and agree that by signing this Consent, you agree (1) to the use of electronic signatures, such as your act of clicking, checking or otherwise manifesting your assent through an electronic method, (2) the use of a key pad, mouse or other device to select an item, button, icon or similar act/action, or in providing or making any agreement, acknowledgement, or consent constitutes your signature (hereafter referred to as “E-Signature”), acceptance and agreement as if actually signed by you in writing, and (3) that no certification authority or other third party verification is necessary to validate your E-Signature and that the lack of such certification or third party verification will not in any way affect the enforceability of your E-Signature or any resulting contract.

### **Consent to Receive Documents or Communications Electronically**

By agreeing to this Consent, you affirmatively consent and agree that we may electronically provide you with all communications, documents and other information required to be provided by us, by the issuers of the securities in which you invest, and by other parties, and that we may discontinue sending paper communications to you, unless and until you withdraw your consent as described below. This means you agree to any online agreements of ours, including any changes we make to any of our agreements, including this Agreement, and you agree that the electronically signed Agreements are written, binding contracts. This also means you will receive email or other notices electronically when, for example, your account statements, confirmations, tax documents, prospectuses, annual reports, proxy statements, proxies, tender offers and mergers, corporate recapitalizations, margin and maintenance calls, billing notices, our Privacy Policy and any other information provided to you is available for viewing or printing. Please note that we are not responsible for the content of electronic documents which we did not draft or generate.

You understand and agree that, by consenting to electronic delivery, you agree that notice to you regarding communications, documents and other information made available on websites, in email or in another format, constitutes delivery to you of such communications, documents and other information referred to in the email or other notice even if you do not actually access the information or documents.

### **Method of Providing Documents and Communications to You in Electronic Form**

All communications, documents and other information that we provide to you in electronic form will be provided (1) via email, (2) via a wireless device you have designated, (3) to the extent permissible by law, by access to a website that we will generally designate in advance for such purpose, or (4) via any other electronic means we have mutually agreed upon. Delivery of electronic communications, documents and other information by any of these methods will be considered “in writing” and you intend that the electronic documents or communications have the same legal effect as written and signed paper documents or communications.

### **Right to Receive Paper Copies**

You may obtain a copy of any document or communication in paper form in addition to your access to the document or communication in electronic form at any time upon request. You expressly agree to any additional fees or charges that we may implement for delivery of notices, information or documents using the U.S. Mail or alternative equivalent service.

### **Your Current Email Address**

You agree to promptly notify us in writing if your email address changes. If a message to your email address is returned due to an unsuccessful delivery, then we will send you written notice through the U.S. Mail. If you do not provide us with an updated email address within the time frame identified in the notice, then we will discontinue e-delivery and you will receive communication through the U.S. Mail on an ongoing basis. You expressly agree to any additional fees or charges that we may implement for delivery of notices, information or documents using the U.S. Mail or alternative equivalent service.

If you have consented to electronic delivery, but do not periodically receive emails notifying you of your statement’s or trade confirmation’s availability – and you have not instructed us to stop delivering such notices to you or to deliver those notices to your Authorized Person (as defined in the Account Owner Agreement) – then you agree to notify us immediately so that we can take appropriate steps.

### **Withdrawing Your Consent**

You may withdraw your consent to receive communications, documents and other information electronically at any time. If, after you have consented to receive communications, documents and other information electronically, you decide that you wish to receive communications, documents and other information in paper format only, you may withdraw your previously provided consent by notifying us of your withdrawal by writing us at ETC Brokerage Services, LLC, 1 Equity Way, Westlake, OH 44145 or via email at [ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com](mailto:ETCBrokerage@ETCBrokerage.com), and providing your name, mailing address and daytime telephone number. If this information differs from what we have on file for you, there could be additional verification steps that are needed. You should cancel the communication prior to the last day of the month or quarter to receive a paper periodic statement. You agree, however, that your revocation of consent does not imply that the previous electronic delivery did not constitute good and effective delivery. You expressly agree to any additional fees or charges that we may implement for delivery of notices, information or documents using the U.S. Mail or alternative equivalent service.

### **Hardware and Software Requirements**

To receive, access, view and retain communications, documents, and other information that we make available to you electronically, you must have:

- A computer or other electronic device (tablet, PDA, etc.) capable of supporting electronic access;
- An active email address with an Internet service provider and any necessary email software;
- A Current Version (defined below) of an Internet web browser [we support] [which is capable of supporting 128-bit SSL encrypted communications];

- A connection to the Internet;
- A Current Version of software that permits you to receive, access and view Portable Document Formation or “PDF” files, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader (available for download at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>),
- Sufficient electronic storage capacity on your computer’s, or other electronic device’s, hard/solid state drive or other data storage device;
- A printer if you wish to print out and retain records on paper, and/or working electronic storage if you wish to retain records in electronic form.

By “Current Version,” we mean a version of the software that is currently being supported by its publisher. From time to time, we may offer services or features that require your Internet browser to be configured in a particular way, such as permitting the use of JavaScript or cookies. [If we detect that your Internet browser is not properly configured, we may provide you with a notice and advice on how to update your configuration.]

We reserve the right to discontinue support of a Current Version of software if, in our sole opinion, it suffers from a security flaw or other flaw that makes it unsuitable for use in connection with our services.

#### **Changes to Hardware and/or Software Requirements**

You will be notified electronically of any changes to the hardware and/or software requirements that may create a material risk that you will not be able to receive, view, print or save a document or communication.

#### **Consent Signature**

*By signing below, checking YES in the Application to Electronic Delivery of Account Documents, or previously electing electronic delivery in my ETCB account, I acknowledge and agree that I have reviewed and understand this E-Sign Disclosure and Consent and I affirmatively consent to conducting business using electronic communications, to receive any document or communication electronically, and to utilize my electronic signature in lieu of signing paper documents. I further agree that I have the hardware and software described above and that I have an active email account. I also confirm that I am authorized to provide this consent.*

FACTS	WHAT DOES ETC BROKERAGE SERVICES DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?	
<b>Why?</b>	Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.	
<b>What?</b>	<p>The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Social Security number and account transactions</li> <li>■ Account balances and transaction history</li> <li>■ Assets and investment experience</li> </ul>	
<b>How?</b>	All financial companies need to share customers personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers personal information; the reasons ETC Brokerage Services chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.	
<b>Reasons we can share your personal information</b>	<b>Does ETC Brokerage Services share?</b>	<b>Can you limit this sharing?</b>
<b>For our everyday business purposes—</b> such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	Yes	No
<b>For our marketing purposes—</b> to offer our products and services to you	Yes	No
<b>For joint marketing with other financial companies</b>	No	We don't share
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your transactions and experiences	Yes	No
<b>For our affiliates' everyday business purposes—</b> information about your creditworthiness	No	We don't share
<b>For our affiliates to market to you</b>	No	We don't share
<b>For non-affiliates to market to you</b>	No	We don't share
<b>Questions?</b>	Call 877-403-0369 or go to <a href="http://www.ETCBrokerage.com">www.ETCBrokerage.com</a>	

Who we are	
<b>Who is providing this notice?</b>	ETC Brokerage Services, LLC
What we do	
<b>How does ETC Brokerage Services protect my personal information?</b>	To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured files and buildings.
<b>How does ETC Brokerage Services collect my personal information?</b>	<p>We collect your personal information, for example, when you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open an account or direct us to buy or sell securities</li> <li>■ Make deposits or withdrawals from your account</li> <li>■ Provide account information or give us your contact information</li> </ul> <p>We also collect your personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</p>
<b>Why can't I limit all sharing?</b>	<p>Federal law gives you the right to limit only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes—information about your creditworthiness</li> <li>■ affiliates from using your information to market to you</li> <li>■ sharing for non-affiliates to market to you</li> </ul> <p>State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing. See below for more on your rights under state laws.</p>
Definitions	
<b>Affiliates</b>	<p>Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Our affiliates include companies with an Equity or ETC or Innovayte name; financial companies, such as IPL Lending, LLC; nonfinancial companies, such as Retirement Education Group, Inc. d/b/a Equity University; and others, such as Midland IRA, LLC and UBIT Professional LLC.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Non-Affiliates</b>	<p>Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>ETC Brokerage Services does not share with non-affiliates so they can market to you.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Joint marketing</b>	<p>A formal agreement between non-affiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>ETC Brokerage Services does not jointly market.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Other Important Information</b>	<p><b>California Residents:</b> We will not share your personal information with nonaffiliates for their marketing purposes without your authorization. We will not share your personal information with affiliates or with other financial companies for joint marketing purposes.</p> <p><b>Vermont residents:</b> We will not share your personal information with nonaffiliates for their marketing purposes, or share consumer report information about you with affiliates, without your authorization.</p>



**Application Booklet**

**Non-Designated Financial Institution  
SIMPLE IRA (5304)**

**Equity Trust Company**

<b>FACTS</b>	<b>WHAT DOES EQUITY TRUST COMPANY DO WITH YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?</b>	
<b>Why?</b>	Financial companies choose how they share your personal information. Federal law gives consumers the right to limit some but not all sharing. Federal law also requires us to tell you how we collect, share, and protect your personal information. Please read this notice carefully to understand what we do.	
<b>What?</b>	<p>The types of personal information we collect and share depend on the product or service you have with us. This information can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Social Security number and account transactions</li> <li>■ Account balances and transaction history</li> <li>■ Assets and investment experience</li> </ul>	
<b>How?</b>	All financial companies need to share customers’ personal information to run their everyday business. In the section below, we list the reasons financial companies can share their customers’ personal information; the reasons Equity Trust Company chooses to share; and whether you can limit this sharing.	
Reasons we can share your personal information	Does Equity Trust Company share?	Can you limit this sharing?
<b>For our everyday business purposes—</b> such as to process your transactions, maintain your account(s), respond to court orders and legal investigations, or report to credit bureaus	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For our marketing purposes—</b> to offer our products and services to you	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For joint marketing with other financial companies</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We don’t share</b>
<b>For our affiliates’ everyday business purposes—</b> information about your transactions and experiences	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>For our affiliates’ everyday business purposes—</b> information about your creditworthiness	<b>No</b>	<b>We don’t share</b>
<b>For our affiliates to market to you</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We don’t share</b>
<b>For non-affiliates to market to you</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>We don’t share</b>
<b>Questions?</b>	Call 800-209-9010 or go to <a href="http://www.equityinstitutional.com">www.equityinstitutional.com</a>	

Who we are	
<b>Who is providing this notice?</b>	Equity Trust Company ("Equity Trust")
What we do	
<b>How does Equity Trust Company protect my personal information?</b>	To protect your personal information from unauthorized access and use, we use security measures that comply with federal law. These measures include computer safeguards and secured files and buildings.
<b>How does Equity Trust Company collect my personal information?</b>	<p>We collect your personal information, for example, when you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Open an account or direct us to buy or sell securities</li> <li>■ Make deposits or withdrawals from your account</li> <li>■ Provide account information or give us your contact information</li> </ul> <p>We also collect your personal information from others, such as credit bureaus, affiliates, or other companies.</p>
<b>Why can't I limit all sharing?</b>	<p>Federal law gives you the right to limit only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ sharing for affiliates' everyday business purposes—information about your creditworthiness</li> <li>■ affiliates from using your information to market to you</li> <li>■ sharing for non-affiliates to market to you</li> </ul> <p>State laws and individual companies may give you additional rights to limit sharing. See below for more on your rights under state laws.</p>
Definitions	
<b>Affiliates</b>	<p>Companies related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Our affiliates include companies with an Equity or ETC or Innovayte name; financial companies, such as IPL Lending, LLC; nonfinancial companies, such as Retirement Education Group, Inc. d/b/a Equity University; and others, such as Midland IRA, LLC and UBIT Professional LLC.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Non-Affiliates</b>	<p>Companies not related by common ownership or control. They can be financial and nonfinancial companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Equity Trust Company does not share with non-affiliates so they can market to you.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Joint marketing</b>	<p>A formal agreement between non-affiliated financial companies that together market financial products or services to you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Equity Trust Company does not jointly market.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Other Important Information</b>	<p><b>California Residents:</b> We will not share your personal information with nonaffiliates for their marketing purposes without your authorization. We will not share your personal information with affiliates or with other financial companies for joint marketing purposes.</p> <p><b>Vermont residents:</b> We will not share your personal information with nonaffiliates for their marketing purposes, or share consumer report information about you with affiliates, without your authorization.</p>

**Consult With Your Attorney**

Carefully read the enclosed information. Please consult with your attorney or tax advisor if you are thinking about starting your own trust.

**Disclosure Statement & Trust Agreement**

Before you complete any forms, read the Disclosure Statement and Trust Agreement in their entirety.

**Important Information About Procedures for Opening a New Account**

To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires Equity Trust Company to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person who opens an account.

What this means to you: When you open an account, your broker will ask for your name, address, date of birth, and other information that will allow them to identify you. They may also ask to see your driver's license or other identifying documents.

**Trust Installation and Notice**

Individual accounts will be opened by your brokerage firm. The title of the account will be as follows:

Equity Trust Company, Trustee  
FBO (Name of Account Holder), SIMPLE IRA

Note: Our Federal Tax ID number should appear when opening cash accounts. The Tax ID is 05-0552743. When a cash account is opened, Account Holder must receive a statement.

**Investments**

It is your responsibility to direct the investment of the Trust funds. Investment directions may be given directly to your brokerage firm. Investment confirmations will be sent to you by the brokerage firm.

Trustees are required to furnish participants with a statement of the value of their account by January 31 each year. Because Equity Trust Company is a non-depository directed trustee, we must rely on the regularly issued brokerage/investment statements that are issued to you to meet this requirement.

The facilities of your brokerage firm will be available to you so that you may obtain research material in connection with your investments.

The brokerage firm cannot exercise discretion or control over your account, unless you are using the services of a registered investment advisor. Although they may provide investment information and advice to you, they do not intend that any advice given by them will serve as the primary basis for your investment decisions. Furthermore, it is our understanding that you will exercise independent judgment in making investment decisions.

**Contributions**

**Important:** Forward all contributions to your brokerage firm. To make sure the contributions are associated with the proper tax year, the brokerage firm's cash statement must designate the tax year for which the contribution is made. If no year is designated, the contribution will be considered made in the tax year in which it is deposited. If you complete a Rollover, the brokerage firm's cash statement must indicate "RO" next to the asset(s) received.

**Note:** With the exception of rollovers, contributions in excess of the allowable amount per year (as indexed), plus excess of allowable catch-up contributions (as indexed), (or such limits as may be established by law) cannot be accepted. Do not over-invest as this will cause a debit balance and may disqualify your IRA. Commissions are part of the cost of the investment and may not be paid separately.

**Mailing Instructions**

If sent First Class, address to:

Equity Trust Company  
Attn: DTS  
P. O. Box 45274  
Westlake, OH 44145

If sent by a courier service, address to:

Equity Trust Company  
Attn: DTS  
1 Equity Way  
Westlake, OH 44145**Fair Market Value**

As a non-depository directed trustee, we are required to submit the December 31 fair market value of your account to the Internal Revenue Service each year. We request this information annually from your brokerage/investment firm and provide it to the IRS. If your brokerage/investment firm does not provide this information, we will request this information from you. In the event that we do not receive the fair market value of your account, we will report the last value reported to us to the IRS. We strongly recommend that you carefully monitor your account at all times and contact your brokerage/investment firm if you do not receive a statement with the December 31 fair market value of your account by January 31.

For certain types of investments, particularly limited partnerships and private placement investments, a valuation of zero may be reflected when the investment sponsor reports the investment as having no market value or if the investment sponsor is in bankruptcy.

**Records**

It is extremely important for you to keep good records covering your contributions and investments. Remember that you assume the responsibility for filing all Federal and State tax returns and forms required as an Account Holder of a SIMPLE IRA.

(Note: Our Federal Tax ID number should appear when opening cash accounts. The Tax ID is 05-0552743. When a cash account is opened, Account Holder must receive a statement).

**Savings Incentive Match Plan  
for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE)—Not  
for Use With a Designated Financial Institution**

\_\_\_\_\_ establishes the following SIMPLE

Name of Employer

IRA plan under section 408(p) of the Internal Revenue Code and pursuant to the instructions contained in this form.

**Article I—Employee Eligibility Requirements** *(complete applicable box(es) and blanks—see instructions)*

- 1 General Eligibility Requirements.** The Employer agrees to permit salary reduction contributions to be made in each calendar year to the SIMPLE IRA established by each employee who meets the following requirements (select either 1a or 1b):
- a**  **Full Eligibility.** All employees are eligible.
- b**  **Limited Eligibility.** Eligibility is limited to employees who are described in both (i) and (ii) below:
- (i) **Current compensation.** Employees who are reasonably expected to receive at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in compensation (not to exceed \$5,000) for the calendar year.
- (ii) **Prior compensation.** Employees who have received at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in compensation (not to exceed \$5,000) during any \_\_\_\_\_ calendar year(s) (insert 0, 1, or 2) preceding the calendar year.
- 2 Excludable Employees.**
- The Employer elects to exclude employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining. **Note:** *This box is deemed checked if the Employer maintains a qualified plan covering only such employees.*

**Article II—Salary Reduction Agreements** *(complete the box and blank, if applicable—see instructions)*

- 1 Salary Reduction Election.** An eligible employee may make an election to have his or her compensation for each pay period reduced. The total amount of the reduction in the employee's compensation for a calendar year cannot exceed the applicable amount for that year.
- 2 Timing of Salary Reduction Elections**
- a** For a calendar year, an eligible employee may make or modify a salary reduction election during the 60-day period immediately preceding January 1 of that year. However, for the year in which the employee becomes eligible to make salary reduction contributions, the period during which the employee may make or modify the election is a 60-day period that includes either the date the employee becomes eligible or the day before.
- b** In addition to the election periods in 2a, eligible employees may make salary reduction elections or modify prior elections \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. If the Employer chooses this option, insert a period or periods (for example, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, or daily) that will apply uniformly to all eligible employees.
- c** No salary reduction election may apply to compensation that an employee received, or had a right to immediately receive, before execution of the salary reduction election.
- d** An employee may terminate a salary reduction election at any time during the calendar year.  If this box is checked, an employee who terminates a salary reduction election not in accordance with 2b may not resume salary reduction contributions during the calendar year.

**Article III—Contributions** *(complete the blank, if applicable—see instructions)*

- 1 Salary Reduction Contributions.** The amount by which the employee agrees to reduce his or her compensation will be contributed by the Employer to the employee's SIMPLE IRA.
- 2a Matching Contributions**
- (i) For each calendar year, the Employer will contribute a matching contribution to each eligible employee's SIMPLE IRA equal to the employee's salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of the employee's compensation for the calendar year.
- (ii) The Employer may reduce the 3% limit for the calendar year in (i) only if:
- (1) The limit is not reduced below 1%; (2) The limit is not reduced for more than 2 calendar years during the 5-year period ending with the calendar year the reduction is effective; and (3) Each employee is notified of the reduced limit within a reasonable period of time before the employees' 60-day election period for the calendar year (described in Article II, item 2a).
- b Nonelective Contributions**
- (i) For any calendar year, instead of making matching contributions, the Employer may make nonelective contributions equal to 2% of compensation for the calendar year to the SIMPLE IRA of each eligible employee who has at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_, (not more than \$5,000) in compensation for the calendar year. No more than \$250,000\* in compensation can be taken into account in determining the nonelective contribution for each eligible employee.
- (ii) For any calendar year, the Employer may make 2% nonelective contributions instead of matching contributions only if:
- (1) Each eligible employee is notified that a 2% nonelective contribution will be made instead of a matching contribution; and
- (2) This notification is provided within a reasonable period of time before the employees' 60-day election period for the calendar year (described in Article II, item 2a).
- 3 Time and Manner of Contributions**
- a** The Employer will make the salary reduction contributions (described in 1 above) for each eligible employee to the SIMPLE IRA established at the financial institution selected by that employee no later than 30 days after the end of the month in which the money is withheld from the employee's pay. See instructions.
- b** The Employer will make the matching or nonelective contributions (described in 2a and 2b above) for each eligible employee to the SIMPLE IRA established at the financial institution selected by that employee no later than the due date for filing the Employer's tax return, including extensions, for the taxable year that includes the last day of the calendar year for which the contributions are made.

\* This is the amount for 2012. For later years, the limit may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. The IRS announces the increase, if any, in a news release, in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, and on the IRS's internet website at [IRS.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Article IV—Other Requirements and Provisions**

- 1 Contributions in General.** The Employer will make no contributions to the SIMPLE IRAs other than salary reduction contributions (described in Article III, item 1) and matching or nonelective contributions (described in Article III, items 2a and 2b).
- 2 Vesting Requirements.** All contributions made under this SIMPLE IRA plan are fully vested and nonforfeitable.
- 3 No Withdrawal Restrictions.** The Employer may not require the employee to retain any portion of the contributions in his or her SIMPLE IRA or otherwise impose any withdrawal restrictions.
- 4 Selection of IRA Trustee.** The Employer must permit each eligible employee to select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of the SIMPLE IRA to which the Employer will make all contributions on behalf of that employee.
- 5 Amendments To This SIMPLE IRA Plan.** This SIMPLE IRA plan may not be amended except to modify the entries inserted in the blanks or boxes provided in Articles I, II, III, VI, and VII.
- 6 Effects Of Withdrawals and Rollovers**
  - a** An amount withdrawn from the SIMPLE IRA is generally includible in gross income. However, a SIMPLE IRA balance may be rolled over or transferred on a tax-free basis to another IRA designed solely to hold funds under a SIMPLE IRA plan. In addition, an individual may roll over or transfer his or her SIMPLE IRA balance to any IRA or eligible retirement plan after a 2-year period has expired since the individual first participated in any SIMPLE IRA plan of the Employer. Any rollover or transfer must comply with the requirements under section 408.
  - b** If an individual withdraws an amount from a SIMPLE IRA during the 2-year period beginning when the individual first participated in any SIMPLE IRA plan of the Employer and the amount is subject to the additional tax on early distributions under section 72(t), this additional tax is increased from 10% to 25%.

**Article V—Definitions**

- 1 Compensation**
  - a General Definition of Compensation.** Compensation means the sum of the wages, tips, and other compensation from the Employer subject to federal income tax withholding (as described in section 6051(a)(3)), the amounts paid for domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority, and the employee's salary reduction contributions made under this plan, and, if applicable, elective deferrals under a section 401(k) plan, a SARSEP, or a section 403(b) annuity contract and compensation deferred under a section 457 plan required to be reported by the Employer on Form W-2 (as described in section 6051(a)(8)).
  - b Compensation for Self-Employed Individuals.** For self-employed individuals, compensation means the net earnings from self-employment determined under section 1402(a), without regard to section 1402(c)(6), prior to subtracting any contributions made pursuant to this plan on behalf of the individual.
- 2 Employee.** Employee means a common-law employee of the Employer. The term employee also includes a self-employed individual and a leased employee described in section 414(n) but does not include a nonresident alien who received no earned income from the Employer that constitutes income from sources within the United States.
- 3 Eligible Employee.** An eligible employee means an employee who satisfies the conditions in Article I, item 1 and is not excluded under Article I, item 2.
- 4 SIMPLE IRA.** A SIMPLE IRA is an individual retirement account described in section 408(a), or an individual retirement annuity described in section 408(b), to which the only contributions that can be made are contributions under a SIMPLE IRA plan and rollovers or transfers from another SIMPLE IRA.

**Article VI—Procedures for Withdrawals** *(The Employer will provide each employee with the procedures for withdrawals of contributions received by the financial institution selected by that employee, and that financial institution's name and address (by attaching that information or inserting it in the space below) unless: (1) that financial institution's procedures are unavailable, or (2) that financial institution provides the procedures directly to the employee. See **Employee Notification** in the instructions.)*

**Article VII—Effective Date**

This SIMPLE IRA plan is effective \_\_\_\_\_ . See instructions.

\* \* \* \* \*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Employer

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of Employer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and title

## Model Notification to Eligible Employees

### I. Opportunity to Participate in the SIMPLE IRA Plan

You are eligible to make salary reduction contributions to the \_\_\_\_\_ SIMPLE IRA plan. This notice and the attached summary description provide you with information that you should consider before you decide whether to start, continue, or change your salary reduction agreement.

### II. Employer Contribution Election

For the \_\_\_\_\_ calendar year, the Employer elects to contribute to your SIMPLE IRA (*employer must select either (1), (2), or (3)*):

- (1) A matching contribution equal to your salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of your compensation for the year;
- (2) A matching contribution equal to your salary reduction contributions up to a limit of \_\_\_\_\_ % (*employer must insert a number from 1 to 3 and is subject to certain restrictions*) of your compensation for the year; or
- (3) A nonelective contribution equal to 2% of your compensation for the year (limited to compensation of \$250,000\*) if you are an employee who *makes at least \$ \_\_\_\_\_* (*employer must insert an amount that is \$5,000 or less*) in compensation for the year.

### III. Administrative Procedures

To start or change your salary reduction contributions, you must complete the salary reduction agreement and return it to \_\_\_\_\_ (employer should designate a place or individual by \_\_\_\_\_ (*employer should insert a date that is not less than 60 days after notice is given*).

### IV. Employee Selection of Financial Institution

You must select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of your SIMPLE IRA and notify your Employer of your selection.

## Model Salary Reduction Agreement

### I. Salary Reduction Election

Subject to the requirements of the SIMPLE IRA plan of \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of employer*) I authorize \_\_\_\_\_ % or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (which equals \_\_\_\_\_ % of my current rate of pay) to be withheld from my pay for each pay period and contributed to my SIMPLE IRA as a salary reduction contribution.

### II. Maximum Salary Reduction

I understand that the total amount of my salary reduction contributions in any calendar year cannot exceed the applicable amount for that year. See instructions.

### III. Date Salary Reduction Begins

I understand that my salary reduction contributions will start as soon as permitted under the SIMPLE IRA plan and as soon as administratively feasible or, if later, \_\_\_\_\_. (*Fill in the date you want the salary reduction contributions to begin. The date must be after you sign this agreement.*)

### IV. Employee Selection of Financial Institution

I select the following financial institution to serve as the trustee, custodian, or issuer of my SIMPLE IRA.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of financial institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address of financial institution

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIMPLE IRA account name and number

I understand that I must establish a SIMPLE IRA to receive any contributions made on my behalf under this SIMPLE IRA plan. If the information regarding my SIMPLE IRA is incomplete when I first submit my salary reduction agreement, I realize that it must be completed by the date contributions must be made under the SIMPLE IRA plan. If I fail to update my agreement to provide this information by that date, I understand that my Employer may select a financial institution for my SIMPLE IRA.

### V. Duration of Election

This salary reduction agreement replaces any earlier agreement and will remain in effect as long as I remain an eligible employee under the SIMPLE IRA plan or until I provide my Employer with a request to end my salary reduction contributions or provide a new salary reduction agreement as permitted under this SIMPLE IRA plan.

Signature of employee \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* This is the amount for 2012. For later years, the limit may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. The IRS announces the increase, if any, in a news release, in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, and on the IRS website at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).



## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

### Purpose of Form

Form 5304-SIMPLE is a model Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE) plan document that an employer may use to establish a SIMPLE IRA plan described in section 408(p), under which each eligible employee is permitted to select the financial institution for his or her SIMPLE IRA.

These instructions are designed to assist in the establishment and administration of the SIMPLE IRA plan. They are not intended to supersede any provision in the SIMPLE IRA plan.

Do not file Form 5304-SIMPLE with the IRS. Instead, keep it with your records.

For more information, see Pub. 560, Retirement Plans for Small Business (SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans), and Pub. 590, Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

**Note.** If you used the March 2002, August 2005, or September 2008 version of Form 5304-SIMPLE to establish a model Savings Incentive Match Plan, you are not required to use this version of the form.

### Which Employers May Establish and Maintain a SIMPLE IRA Plan?

To establish and maintain a SIMPLE IRA plan, you must meet both of the following requirements:

1. Last calendar year, you had no more than 100 employees (including self-employed individuals) who earned \$5,000 or more in compensation from you during the year. If you have a SIMPLE IRA plan but later exceed this 100-employee limit, you will be treated as meeting the limit for the 2 years following the calendar year in which you last satisfied the limit.

2. You do not maintain during any part of the calendar year another qualified plan with respect to which contributions are made, or benefits are accrued, for service in the calendar year. For this purpose, a qualified plan (defined in section 219(g)(5)) includes a qualified pension plan, a profit-sharing plan, a stock bonus plan, a qualified annuity plan, a tax-sheltered annuity plan, and a simplified employee pension (SEP) plan. A qualified plan that only covers employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining is disregarded if these employees are excluded from

participating in the SIMPLE IRA plan. If the failure to continue to satisfy the 100-employee limit or the one-plan rule described in 1 and 2 above is due to an acquisition or similar transaction involving your business, special rules apply. Consult your tax advisor to find out if you can still maintain the plan after the transaction.

Certain related employers (trades or businesses under common control) must be treated as a single employer for purposes of the SIMPLE IRA requirements. These are: (1) a controlled group of corporations under section 414(b); (2) a partnership or sole proprietorship under common control under section 414(c); or (3) an affiliated service group under section 414(m). In addition, if you have leased employees required to be treated as your own employees under the rules of section 414(n), then you must count all such leased employees for the requirements listed above.

### What Is a SIMPLE IRA Plan?

A SIMPLE IRA plan is a written arrangement that provides you and your employees with an easy way to make contributions to provide retirement income for your employees. Under a SIMPLE IRA plan, employees may choose whether to make salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan rather than receiving these amounts as part of their regular compensation. In addition, you will contribute matching or nonelective contributions on behalf of eligible employees (see *Employee Eligibility Requirements* below and *Contributions* later). All contributions under this plan will be deposited into a SIMPLE individual retirement account or annuity established for each eligible employee with the financial institution selected by him or her.

### When To Use Form 5304-SIMPLE

A SIMPLE IRA plan may be established by using this Model Form or any other document that satisfies the statutory requirements.

Do not use Form 5304-SIMPLE if:

1. You want to require that all SIMPLE IRA plan contributions initially go to a financial institution designated by you. That is, you do not want to permit each of your eligible employees to choose a financial institution that will initially receive contributions. Instead, use Form 5305-SIMPLE, Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees of Small Employers (SIMPLE)—for Use With a Designated Financial Institution;

2. You want employees who are nonresident aliens receiving no earned income from you that is income from sources within the United States to be eligible under this plan; or

3. You want to establish a SIMPLE 401(k) plan.

### Completing Form 5304-SIMPLE

Pages 1 and 2 of Form 5304-SIMPLE contain the operative provisions of your SIMPLE IRA plan. This SIMPLE IRA plan is considered adopted when you have completed all applicable boxes and blanks and it has been executed by you.

The SIMPLE IRA plan is a legal document with important tax consequences for you and your employees. You may want to consult with your attorney or tax advisor before adopting this plan.

### Employee Eligibility Requirements (Article I)

Each year for which this SIMPLE IRA plan is effective, you must permit salary reduction contributions to be made by all of your employees who are reasonably expected to receive at least \$5,000 in compensation from you during the year, and who received at least \$5,000 in compensation from you in any 2 preceding years. However, you can expand the group of employees who are eligible to participate in the SIMPLE IRA plan by completing the options provided in Article I, items 1a and 1b. To choose full eligibility, check the box in Article I, item 1a. Alternatively, to choose limited eligibility, check the box in Article I, item 1b, and then insert "\$5,000" or a lower compensation amount (including zero) and "2" or a lower number of years of service in the blanks in (i) and (ii) of Article I, item 1b.

In addition, you can exclude from participation those employees covered under a collective bargaining agreement for which retirement benefits were the subject of good faith bargaining. You may do this by checking the box in Article I, item 2. Under certain circumstances, these employees must be excluded. See *Which Employers May Establish and Maintain a SIMPLE IRA Plan?* above.

### Salary Reduction Agreements (Article II)

As indicated in Article II, item 1, a salary reduction agreement permits an eligible employee to make a salary reduction election to have his or her compensation for each pay period reduced by a percentage (expressed as a percentage or dollar amount). The total amount of

the reduction in the employee's compensation cannot exceed the applicable amount for any calendar year. The applicable amount is \$11,500 for 2012. After 2012, the \$11,500 amount may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. In the case of an eligible employee who is 50 or older by the end of the calendar year, the above limitation is increased by \$2,500 for 2012. After 2012, the \$2,500 amount may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments.

### Timing of Salary Reduction Elections

For any calendar year, an eligible employee may make or modify a salary reduction election during the 60-day period immediately preceding January 1 of that year. However, for the year in which the employee becomes eligible to make salary reduction contributions, the period during which the employee may make or modify the election is a 60-day period that includes either the date the employee becomes eligible or the day before.

You can extend the 60-day election periods to provide additional opportunities for eligible employees to make or modify salary reduction elections using the blank in Article II, item 2b. For example, you can provide that eligible employees may make new salary reduction elections or modify prior elections for any calendar quarter during the 30 days before that quarter.

You may use the *Model Salary Reduction Agreement* on page 3 to enable eligible employees to make or modify salary reduction elections.

Employees must be permitted to terminate their salary reduction elections at any time. They may resume salary reduction contributions for the year if permitted under Article II, item 2b. However, by checking the box in Article II, item 2d, you may prohibit an employee who terminates a salary reduction election outside the normal election cycle from resuming salary reduction contributions during the remainder of the calendar year.

### Contributions (Article III)

Only contributions described below may be made to this SIMPLE IRA plan. No additional contributions may be made.

#### Salary Reduction Contributions

As indicated in Article III, item 1, salary reduction contributions consist of the amount by which the employee agrees to reduce his or her compensation. You must contribute the salary reduction contributions to the financial institution selected by each eligible employee.

### Matching Contributions

In general, you must contribute a matching contribution to each eligible employee's SIMPLE IRA equal to the employee's salary reduction contributions. This matching contribution cannot exceed 3% of the employee's compensation. See *Definition of Compensation*, below.

You may reduce this 3% limit to a lower percentage, but not lower than 1%. You cannot lower the 3% limit for more than 2 calendar years out of the 5-year period ending with the calendar year the reduction is effective.

**Note.** If any year in the 5-year period described above is a year before you first established any SIMPLE IRA plan, you will be treated as making a 3% matching contribution for that year for purposes of determining when you may reduce the employer matching contribution.

To elect this option, you must notify the employees of the reduced limit within a reasonable period of time before the applicable 60-day election periods for the year. See *Timing of Salary Reduction Elections* above.

#### Nonelective Contributions

Instead of making a matching contribution, you may, for any year, make a nonelective contribution equal to 2% of compensation for each eligible employee who has at least \$5,000 in compensation for the year. Nonelective contributions may not be based on more than \$250,000\* of compensation.

To elect to make nonelective contributions, you must notify employees within a reasonable period of time before the applicable 60-day election periods for such year. See *Timing of Salary Reduction Elections* above.

**Note.** Insert "\$5,000" in Article III, item 2b(i) to impose the \$5,000 compensation requirement. You may expand the group of employees who are eligible for nonelective contributions by inserting a compensation amount lower than \$5,000.

### Effective Date (Article VII)

Insert in Article VII the date you want the provisions of the SIMPLE IRA plan to become effective. You must insert January 1 of the applicable year unless this is the first year for which you are adopting any SIMPLE IRA plan. If this is the first year for which you are adopting a SIMPLE IRA plan, you may insert any date between January 1 and October 1, inclusive of the applicable year.

## Additional Information

### Timing of Salary Reduction Contributions

The employer must make the salary reduction contributions to the financial institution selected by each eligible employee for his or her SIMPLE IRA no later than the 30th day of the month following the month in which the amounts would otherwise have been payable to the employee in cash.

The Department of Labor has indicated that most SIMPLE IRA plans are also subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Under Department of Labor regulations at 29 CFR 2510.3-102, salary reduction contributions must be made to each participant's SIMPLE IRA as of the earliest date on which those contributions can reasonably be segregated from the employer's general assets, but in no event later than the 30-day deadline described previously.

### Definition of Compensation

"Compensation" means the amount described in section 6051(a)(3) (wages, tips, and other compensation from the employer subject to federal income tax withholding under section 3401(a)), and amounts paid for domestic service in a private home, local college club, or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority. Usually, this is the amount shown in box 1 of Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement. For further information, see Pub. 15, (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide. Compensation also includes the salary reduction contributions made under this plan, and, if applicable, compensation deferred under a section 457 plan. In determining an employee's compensation for prior years, the employee's elective deferrals under a section 401(k) plan, a SARSEP, or a section 403(b) annuity contract are also included in the employee's compensation.

For self-employed individuals, compensation means the net earnings from self-employment determined under section 1402(a), without regard to section 1402(c)(6), prior to subtracting any contributions made pursuant to this SIMPLE IRA plan on behalf of the individual.

### Employee Notification

You must notify each eligible employee prior to the employee's 60-day election period described above that he or she can make or change salary reduction elections and select the financial institution that will serve as the trustee, custodian, or

\*This is the amount for 2012. For later years, the limit may be increased for cost-of-living adjustments. The IRS announces the increase, if any, in a news release, in the Internal Revenue Bulletin, and on the IRS's website at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov).

issuer of the employee's SIMPLE IRA. In this notification, you must indicate whether you will provide:

1. A matching contribution equal to your employees' salary reduction contributions up to a limit of 3% of their compensation;
2. A matching contribution equal to your employees' salary reduction contributions subject to a percentage limit that is between 1 and 3% of their compensation; or
3. A nonelective contribution equal to 2% of your employees' compensation.

You can use the *Model Notification to Eligible Employees* earlier to satisfy these employee notification requirements for this SIMPLE IRA plan. A *Summary Description* must also be provided to eligible employees at this time. This summary description requirement may be satisfied by providing a completed copy of pages 1 and 2 of Form 5304-SIMPLE (including the information described in *Article VI—Procedures for Withdrawals*).

If you fail to provide the employee notification (including the summary description) described above, you will be liable for a penalty of \$50 per day until the notification is provided. If you can show that the failure was due to reasonable cause, the penalty will not be imposed.

If the financial institution's name, address, or withdrawal procedures are not available at the time the employee must be given the summary description, you must provide the summary description without this information. In that case, you will have reasonable cause for not including this information in the summary description, but only if you ensure that it is provided to the employee as soon as administratively feasible.

## Reporting Requirements

You are not required to file any annual information returns for your SIMPLE IRA plan, such as Form 5500, Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan, or Form 5500-EZ, Annual Return of One-Participant (Owners and Their Spouses) Retirement Plan. However, you must report to the IRS which eligible employees are active participants in the SIMPLE IRA plan and the amount of your employees' salary reduction contributions to the SIMPLE IRA plan on Form W-2. These contributions are subject to social security, Medicare, railroad retirement, and federal unemployment tax.

## Deducting Contributions

Contributions to this SIMPLE IRA plan are deductible in your tax year containing the end of the calendar year for which the contributions are made.

Contributions will be treated as made for a particular tax year if they are made for that year and are made by the due date (including extensions) of your income tax return for that year.

## Summary Description

Each year the SIMPLE IRA plan is in effect, the financial institution for the SIMPLE IRA of each eligible employee must provide the employer the information described in section 408(l)(2)(B). This requirement may be satisfied by providing the employer a current copy of Form 5304-SIMPLE (including instructions) together with the financial institution's procedures for withdrawals from SIMPLE IRAs established at that financial institution, including the financial institution's name and address. The summary description must be received by the employer in sufficient time to comply with the *Employee Notification* requirements earlier.

There is a penalty of \$50 per day imposed on the financial institution for each failure to provide the summary description described above. However, if the failure was due to reasonable cause, the penalty will not be imposed.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Notice.** You are not required to provide the information requested on a form that is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act unless the form displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a form or its instructions must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any Internal Revenue law. Generally, tax returns and return information are confidential, as required by section 6103.

The time needed to complete this form will vary depending on individual circumstances. The estimated average time is:

**Recordkeeping** ..... 3 hr., 38 min.  
**Learning about the law or the form** ..... 2 hr., 26 min.  
**Preparing the form** . . . . . 47 min.

If you have comments concerning the accuracy of these time estimates or suggestions for making this form simpler, we would be happy to hear from you. You can write to the Internal Revenue Service, Tax Products Coordinating Committee, SE:W:CAR:MP:T:M:S, 1111 Constitution Ave. NW, IR-6526, Washington, DC 20224. Do not send this form to this address. Instead, keep it with your records.

# SIMPLE Individual Retirement Trust Account

(Under section 408(p) of the Internal Revenue Code)

Do not file  
with the Internal  
Revenue Service

Name of participant	Date of birth of participant	Account number
Address of participant		Check if transfer SIMPLE IRA . . . ▶ <input type="checkbox"/> Check if amendment.....▶ <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of trustee	Address or principal place of business of trustee	

The participant named above is establishing a savings incentive match plan for employees of small employers individual retirement account (SIMPLE IRA) under sections 408(a) and 408(p) to provide for his or her retirement and for the support of his or her beneficiaries after death.

The trustee named above has given the participant the disclosure statement required by Regulations section 1.408-6.

The participant and the trustee make the following agreement.

## Article I

The trustee will accept cash contributions made on behalf of the participant by the participant's employer under the terms of a SIMPLE IRA plan described in section 408(p). In addition, the trustee will accept transfers or rollovers from other SIMPLE IRAs of the participant and, after the 2-year period of participation defined in section 72(t)(6), transfers or rollovers from any eligible retirement plan (as defined in section 402(c)(8)(B)) other than a Roth IRA or a designated Roth account. No other contributions will be accepted by the trustee.

## Article II

The participant's interest in the balance in the trust account is nonforfeitable.

## Article III

1. No part of the trust account funds may be invested in life insurance contracts, nor may the assets of the trust account be commingled with other property except in a common trust fund or common investment fund (within the meaning of section 408(a)(5)).
2. No part of the trust account funds may be invested in collectibles (within the meaning of section 408(m)) except as otherwise permitted by section 408(m)(3), which provides an exception for certain gold, silver, and platinum coins, coins issued under the laws of any state, and certain bullion.

## Article IV

1. Notwithstanding any provision of this agreement to the contrary, the distribution of the participant's interest in the trust account shall be made in accordance with the following requirements and shall otherwise comply with section 408(a)(6) and the regulations thereunder, the provisions of which are herein incorporated by reference.
2. The participant's entire interest in the trust account must be, or begin to be, distributed not later than the participant's required beginning date, April 1 following the calendar year in which the participant reaches age 70<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. By that date, the participant may elect, in a manner acceptable to the trustee, to have the balance in the trust account distributed in:
  - (a) A single sum or
  - (b) Payments over a period not longer than the life of the participant or the joint lives of the participant and his or her designated beneficiary.
3. If the participant dies before his or her entire interest is distributed to him or her, the remaining interest will be distributed as follows.
  - (a) If the participant dies on or after the required beginning date and:
    - (i) The designated beneficiary is the participant's surviving spouse, the remaining interest will be distributed over the surviving spouse's life expectancy as determined each year until such spouse's death, or over the period in paragraph (a)(iii) below if longer. Any interest remaining after the spouse's death will be distributed over such spouse's remaining life expectancy as determined in the year of the spouse's death and reduced by 1 for each subsequent year, or, if distributions are being made over the period in paragraph (a)(iii) below, over such period.
    - (ii) The designated beneficiary is not the participant's surviving spouse, the remaining interest will be distributed over the beneficiary's remaining life expectancy as determined in the year following the death of the participant and reduced by 1 for each subsequent year, or over the period in paragraph (a)(iii) below if longer.
    - (iii) There is no designated beneficiary, the remaining interest will be distributed over the remaining life expectancy of the participant as determined in the year of the participant's death and reduced by 1 for each subsequent year.
  - (b) If the participant dies before the required beginning date, the remaining interest will be distributed in accordance with paragraph (i) below or, if elected or there is no designated beneficiary, in accordance with paragraph (ii) below.
    - (i) The remaining interest will be distributed in accordance with paragraphs (a)(i) and (a)(ii) above (but not over the period in paragraph (a)(iii), even if longer), starting by the end of the calendar year following the year of the participant's death. If, however, the designated beneficiary is the participant's surviving spouse, then this distribution is not required to begin before the end of the calendar year in which the participant would have reached age 70<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. But, in such case, if the participant's surviving spouse dies before distributions are required to begin, then the remaining interest will be distributed in accordance with paragraph (a)(ii) above (but not over the period in paragraph (a)(iii), even if longer), over such spouse's designated beneficiary's life expectancy, or in accordance with paragraph (ii) below if there is no such designated beneficiary.
    - (ii) The remaining interest will be distributed by the end of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the participant's death.
4. If the participant dies before his or her entire interest has been distributed and if the designated beneficiary is not the participant's surviving spouse, no additional contributions may be accepted in the account.
5. The minimum amount that must be distributed each year, beginning with the year containing the participant's required beginning date, is known as the "required minimum distribution" and is determined as follows.
  - (a) The required minimum distribution under paragraph 2(b) for any year, beginning with the year the participant reaches age 70<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, is the participant's account value at the close of business on December 31 of the preceding year divided by the distribution period in the uniform

lifetime table in Regulations section 1.401(a)(9)-9. However, if the participant's designated beneficiary is his or her surviving spouse, the required minimum distribution for a year shall not be more than the participant's account value at the close of business on December 31 of the preceding year divided by the number in the joint and last survivor table in Regulations section 1.401(a)(9)-9. The required minimum distribution for a year under this paragraph (a) is determined using the participant's (or, if applicable, the participant and spouse's) attained age (or ages) in the year.

(b) The required minimum distribution under paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b)(i) for a year, beginning with the year following the year of the participant's death (or the year the participant would have reached age 70<sup>1/2</sup>, if applicable under paragraph 3(b)(i)) is the account value at the close of business on December 31 of the preceding year divided by the life expectancy (in the single life table in Regulations section 1.401(a)(9)-9) of the individual specified in such paragraphs 3(a) and 3(b)(i).

(c) The required minimum distribution for the year the participant reaches age 70<sup>1/2</sup> can be made as late as April 1 of the following year. The required minimum distribution for any other year must be made by the end of such year.

6. The owner of two or more IRAs (other than Roth IRAs) may satisfy the minimum distribution requirements described above by taking from one IRA the amount required to satisfy the requirement for another in accordance with the regulations under section 408(a)(6).

### **Article V**

1. The participant agrees to provide the trustee with all information necessary to prepare any reports required by sections 408(i) and 408(l)(2) and Regulations sections 1.408-5 and 1.408-6.

2. The trustee agrees to submit to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and participant the reports prescribed by the IRS.

3. The trustee also agrees to provide the participant's employer the summary description described in section 408(l)(2) unless this SIMPLE IRA is a transfer SIMPLE IRA.

### **Article VI**

Notwithstanding any other articles which may be added or incorporated, the provisions of Articles I through III and this sentence will be controlling. Any additional articles inconsistent with sections 408(a) and 408(p) and the related regulations will be invalid.

### **Article VII**

This agreement will be amended as necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code and the related regulations. Other amendments may be made with the consent of the persons whose signatures appear below.

### **Article VIII**

#### Amendment and Termination 8.1

A. Each participant who adopts this trust delegates to the trustee the power to amend this trust from time to time in any respect without obtaining the consent or approval of the participant (or beneficiary). Any amendments will be provided to the participant.

Each participant shall be deemed to have consented to any and all such amendments. In addition, the trustee may amend the fee schedule from time to time with advance notice to the participant (or beneficiary).

The participant shall be permitted to revoke this trust in writing within a period not to exceed seven (7) days after the date that the participant adopted this trust. In the event of such revocation, the trustee will return the entire account plus any trustee compensation, taxes and expenses as soon as practical.

B. Neither the participant nor the trustee shall have the right to amend or terminate this trust in such a manner as would cause or permit all or part of the entire interest of the participant to be diverted for purposes other than their exclusive benefit or that of their beneficiary. No participant shall have the right to sell, assign, discount, or pledge as collateral for a loan any asset of this trust.

C. A participant shall have the right to terminate this trust, at any time and from time to time, by delivering to the trustee a signed copy of a statement of termination.

D. Either the trustee or the participant may terminate this trust upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other. Upon removal of the trustee by the participant, the participant shall appoint a successor trustee or custodian that shall have the same powers and duties as are conferred upon the trustee hereunder and in default thereof, such successor trustee or custodian may be appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction.

In the event of resignation of the trustee, if the participant fails to appoint a successor trustee or custodian and complete the transfer of assets within 30 days of the date the trustee mails such termination notice to the last address on file for the participant or the participant mails such notice to the trustee, the trustee may in its discretion, transfer the assets to a successor trustee or custodian of its choosing or to a successor trustee or custodian as may be appointed by a court of competent jurisdiction, or liquidate and/or distribute the assets, less any amounts withheld for trustee compensation, taxes, and expenses, to the participant. The trustee will not be responsible for any penalties, fines, taxes, or tax consequences that may result from such distribution or transfer.

E. Upon the delivery by the resigning or removed trustee to its successor trustee or custodian of all property of the trust, less such reasonable amount as it shall deem necessary to provide for its compensation and any taxes and expenses or advances chargeable or payable out of the trust, the successor trustee or custodian shall thereupon have the same powers and duties as are conferred upon the trustee.

F. No successor trustee or custodian shall have any obligation or liability with respect to the acts or omissions of its predecessors.

The actual appointment and qualification of a successor trustee or custodian to whom the trust assets may be transferred are conditions which must be fulfilled before the resignation or removal of the trustee shall become effective. The transfer of the trust assets shall be made coincidentally with an accounting by the resigned or removed trustee and such resigned or removed trustee shall endorse, transfer, convey and deliver to the successor trustee or custodian all of the funds, securities or other property then held by it under the trust, together with such records as may be reasonably required in order that the successor trustee or custodian may properly administer the trust.

G. This agreement and the trust created hereby will be terminated in the case of complete distribution of the trust. This agreement and the trust created hereby will also terminate at such time, as determined by the trustee based on available information, that the investments in the trust have no value. The trustee will have no liability for making a no value determination.

- H. If the trustee receives any claim to assets held in the trust which is adverse to the participant's interest or the interest of his or her beneficiary, and the trustee, in its absolute discretion, decides the claim is, or may be, meritorious, the trustee may withhold distribution until the claim is resolved to its trustee shall be entitled to reimbursement of all costs, fees and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, directly from the trust assets, without the approval or direction of the participant. If necessary, the trustee may liquidate trust assets in order to be reimbursed. As an alternative, the trustee may deposit all or any portion of the assets in the trust into the court. Deposit with the court shall relieve the trustee of any further obligation with respect to the assets deposited. The trustee has the right to be reimbursed from the funds deposited with the court for legal fees and costs incurred. Such reimbursement may be made directly from the trust assets without approval or direction of the participant. If necessary, the trustee may liquidate trust assets in order to be reimbursed as stated above.

#### Miscellaneous 8.2

- A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this agreement or in any amendment thereto, no part of the trust other than such part as is required to pay the trustee's compensation, taxes, and administration expenses (including the reimbursement referenced in Section 8.1 (H)), shall be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of the participant, their beneficiaries, or their estates. The trust account is established for the exclusive benefit of the participant or his or her beneficiary.
- B. The trustee shall not be liable for any act or omission made in connection with the trust except for its intentional misconduct or negligence. Any required notice regarding the trust will be considered effective when the trustee mails it to the last address of the intended recipient which is contained in the trustee's records. Any notice to be given to the trustee will be considered effective when the trustee actually receives it. The participant and/or beneficiaries must notify the trustee of any change of address in a manner acceptable to the trustee.
- C. To the extent the trustee is engaged in any form of litigation, arbitration, or dispute resolution concerning the trust assets or the interest of the trust, the trustee shall be entitled to recover all costs, fees and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, directly from the trust assets.
- D. The terms and conditions of this agreement shall be applicable without regard to the community property laws of any state.
- E. The captions of Articles and Sections in this agreement are included for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of, or an aid to, the construction of this trust.
- F. The participant agrees that all lawsuits filed by the participant and/or beneficiaries and the trustee and any of its officers, directors, agents or employees (present or former) concerning or arising from (i) any account maintained with the trustee by the participant; (ii) any transaction involving the participant's account, whether or not such transaction occurred in such account or accounts; or (iii) the construction, performance or breach of this agreement, whether such controversy arose prior, on or subsequent to the date hereof, shall be instituted in the county courts of Lorain County, Ohio where trustee maintains its principal office. Participant agrees to submit to such jurisdiction both in connection with any such suit participant may file and in connection with any suit trustee may file.
- G. The determination that any provision of this agreement is not enforceable in accordance with its terms in a particular jurisdiction shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions of this agreement generally or in any other jurisdiction or as to any other parties, but rather such unenforceable provisions shall be stricken or modified in accordance with such determination only as to such parties and this agreement, as so modified, shall continue to bind the specific parties involved therein and otherwise all other parties in unmodified form.
- H. Trustee is a South Dakota trust company and contributions to this trust shall be deemed to take place in the State of South Dakota.
- I. This agreement is executed by signing the Application and the Form 5305-S (in a manner acceptable to the trustee), which may be executed in any number of counterparts, each one of which shall be deemed to be the original although the others shall not be produced.
- J. This agreement is made pursuant to and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of South Dakota.

#### Designation of Beneficiary 8.3

- A. The participant shall designate a beneficiary on the Application. The participant may change the beneficiary designation by filing a written notice with the trustee in such manner as the trustee deems acceptable. Changes to the beneficiary designation must be received by the trustee during the participant's lifetime and are considered valid when they have been received and accepted by the trustee.
- B. The beneficiary will be entitled to the participant's interest in the event of the participant's death before the complete distribution of the entire interest. If the participant named multiple beneficiaries, the beneficiaries will receive the designated portion of the participant's interest.
- C. Unless the participant designates in writing how distributions are to be paid, the interest in the account will be paid equally to all primary beneficiaries, or contingent beneficiaries if all primary beneficiaries have died before the participant.
- D. If the designation of a beneficiary has not been made by the participant at the time of the participant's death, the beneficiary shall be the spouse of the participant (as determined under Federal tax law), or if there is no spouse living at the time of the participant's death, the beneficiary will be the estate of the participant.
- E. If the beneficiary designated to receive payments is a minor child or declared incapacitated or incompetent by the court, the trustee may make such payment to a court appointed guardian or legally appointed representative. The receipt of such payment by such individual shall be a full and complete discharge to the trustee for any sums so paid.
- F. If the trustee is unable to make a payment to a beneficiary within six months after any such payment is due because the trustee cannot ascertain the whereabouts or the identity of the beneficiary by mailing to the last known address shown on the trustee's records and such beneficiary has not written claim for such payment before the expiration of said six-month period, then the trustee may deposit the beneficiary's funds in a savings account or money market mutual fund established in the name of the beneficiary.
- G. Upon the death of the participant, the beneficiary may designate his or her own beneficiary to receive any remaining assets in the account in the event the beneficiary dies before a total distribution of the interest in the account occurs. Payments to the beneficiary's beneficiary must continue at least as rapidly as they would have been to the original beneficiary.

- H. A designated beneficiary may disclaim his or her interest in the account provided the disclaimer is in a form acceptable to the trustee and complies with Code Section 2518(b).
- I. A beneficiary is responsible for paying any fees, expenses, or taxes of the trust in the same manner and time frame as if they were the original participant.
- J. If the beneficiary of the account is the spouse (designated either by name or relationship or both), the dissolution, annulment or other legal termination of the participant's marriage will automatically revoke such designation. A participant may designate a former spouse as a beneficiary on a form executed following the date the participant's marriage legally terminated, provided the beneficiary designation otherwise satisfies the requirements of this trust.
- K. In the event of a dispute between two or more beneficiaries, the trustee retains the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for judicial settlement or to arbitration pursuant to Section 8.1(F). All fees and expenses incurred by the trustee in connection with such action will be deducted from the assets of the trust after reasonable notice is given to the beneficiaries. Such fees and expenses do not have to be approved by the court or an arbitrator.

Participant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If an individual other than the participant signs this form for the participant, indicate the individual's relationship to the participant.)

Trustee's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness' signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Use only if signature of the participant or the trustee is required to be witnessed.)

## General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

### Purpose of Form

Form 5305-S is a model trust account agreement that meets the requirements of sections 408(a) and 408(p). However, only Articles I through VII have been reviewed by the IRS. A SIMPLE individual retirement account (SIMPLE IRA) is established after the form is fully executed by both the individual (participant) and the trustee. This account must be created in the United States for the exclusive benefit of the participant and his or her beneficiaries.

**Do not** file Form 5305-S with the IRS. Instead, keep it with your records.

For more information on SIMPLE IRAs, including the required disclosures the trustee must give the participant, see **Pub. 590-A**,

Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs); **Pub. 590-B**, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs); and **Pub 560**, Retirement Plans for Small Business (SEP, SIMPLE, and Qualified Plans).

### Definitions

**Participant.** The participant is the person who establishes the trust account.

**Trustee.** The trustee must be a bank or savings and loan association, as defined in section 408(n), or any person who has the approval of the IRS to act as trustee.

### Transfer SIMPLE IRA

This SIMPLE IRA is a "transfer SIMPLE IRA" if it is not the original recipient of contributions under any SIMPLE IRA plan. The summary description requirements of section 408(l)(2) do not apply to transfer SIMPLE IRAs.

## Specific Instructions

**Article IV.** Distributions made under this article may be made in a single sum, periodic payment, or a combination of both. The distribution option should be reviewed in the year the participant reaches age 70<sup>1/2</sup> to ensure that the requirements of section 408(a)(6) have been met.

**Article VIII.** Article VIII and any that follow it may incorporate additional provisions that are agreed to by the participant and trustee to complete the agreement. They may include, for example, definitions, investment powers, voting rights, exculpatory provisions, amendment and termination, removal of the trustee, trustee's fees, state law requirements, beginning date of distributions, accepting only cash, treatment of excess contributions, prohibited transactions with the participant, etc. Attach additional pages if necessary.

- H. A designated beneficiary may disclaim his or her interest in the account provided the disclaimer is in a form acceptable to the trustee and complies with Code Section 2518(b).
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- K. In the event of a dispute between two or more beneficiaries, the trustee retains the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for judicial settlement or to arbitration pursuant to Section 8.1(F). All fees and expenses incurred by the trustee in connection with such action will be deducted from the assets of the trust after reasonable notice is given to the beneficiaries. Such fees and expenses do not have to be approved by the court or an arbitrator.

Participant's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If an individual other than the participant signs this form for the participant, indicate the individual's relationship to the participant.)

Trustee's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness' signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Use only if signature of the participant or the trustee is required to be witnessed.)

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# SIMPLE IRA Disclosure Statement



Equity Trust Company's SIMPLE IRA Disclosure Statement is a summary of the general requirements set forth by the Internal Revenue Service Regulations. These Regulations require that certain information is disclosed to individuals who are establishing an Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees ("SIMPLE IRA"). By executing the Equity Trust Company Application, you acknowledge receipt of this Disclosure Statement. This Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as giving or replacing legal advice. Please consult with a tax professional concerning any questions related to your SIMPLE IRA with us.

## RIGHT TO REVOKE YOUR SIMPLE IRA

If you receive this Disclosure Statement at the time you establish your SIMPLE IRA, you have the right to revoke your account within seven (7) days of its establishment. If you do not exercise this right within the seven days, we will assume that you have accepted the terms and conditions of the account you have established.

If revoked, you are entitled to a full return of the contribution you made to your SIMPLE IRA. The amount returned to you would not include an adjustment for such items as sales commissions, administrative expenses, or fluctuation in market value. You may make this revocation only by mailing or delivering a written notice to the Custodian at the address listed on the application.

If you send your notice by first class mail, your revocation will be deemed mailed as of the postmark date.

If you have any questions about the procedure for revoking your SIMPLE IRA, please call the Custodian at the telephone number listed on the application.

## REQUIREMENTS OF A SIMPLE IRA - IRC SECTION 408(P)

A. **Cash Contributions** – Your contribution must be in cash, unless it is a rollover contribution.

B. **Maximum Contribution** – The only contributions that may be made to your SIMPLE IRA are employee elective deferrals under a qualified salary reduction agreement, employer contributions, and other contributions allowed by the Code or related regulations, that are made under a SIMPLE IRA plan maintained by your employer.

Employee elective deferrals may not exceed the lesser of 100 percent of your compensation for the calendar year or \$16,500 for 2025. Your employer may make additional contributions to your SIMPLE IRA within the limits prescribed in Internal Revenue Code Section [IRC Section 408(p)]. Your employer is required to provide you with information that describes the terms of its SIMPLE IRA plan.

Your employer is required to either contribute to your SIMPLE IRA through either a matching contribution or a non-elective contribution. For a matching contribution, the employer must make a dollar-for-dollar match, not to exceed 3% of your compensation (to a maximum of \$16,500, or \$20,000 for participants over the age of 50). For a non-elective contribution, your employer can make a contribution of 2% of your compensation, limited to \$350,000 for 2025, this limit is subject to cost-of-living adjustments in future years. Starting in 2024, your employer is able to make an additional 10% nonelective contribution to each eligible employee in a uniform manner, to a max of \$5,000.

For additional information about cost-of-living adjusted limitations for 2025, visit: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/n-24-80.pdf>.

C. **Catch-Up Contributions** – If you are age 50 or older by the close of the taxable year, you may make an additional contribution to your SIMPLE IRA. The maximum additional contribution to your SIMPLE

IRA is \$3,500 per year, with possible cost-of-living adjustments in each subsequent year.

Under a change made in SECURE 2.0, a higher catch-up contribution limit applies for employees aged 60, 61, 62 and 63 who participate in SIMPLE plans. For 2025, this higher catch-up contribution limit is \$5,250.

- D. **Non-Forfeitable** – Your interest in your SIMPLE IRA is non-forfeitable.
- E. **Eligible Custodians** – The Custodian of your SIMPLE IRA must be a bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or a person or entity approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.
- F. **Commingling Assets** – The assets of your SIMPLE IRA cannot be commingled with other property except in a common trust fund or common investment fund.
- G. **Life Insurance** – No portion of your SIMPLE IRA may be invested in life insurance contracts.
- H. **Collectibles** – You may not invest the assets of your SIMPLE IRA in collectibles [within the meaning of IRC Section 408(m)]. A collectible is defined as any work of art, rug or antique, metal or gem, stamp or coin, alcoholic beverage, or other tangible personal property specified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). However, specially minted United States gold and silver coins, and certain state-issued coins are permissible investments. Platinum coins and certain gold, silver, platinum or palladium bullion [as described in IRC Section 408(m)(3)] also are permitted as SIMPLE IRA investments.
- I. **Required Minimum Distributions** – You are required to take minimum distributions from your SIMPLE IRA at certain times in accordance with Treasury Regulation 1.408-8. Below is a summary of the SIMPLE IRA distribution rules.
  1. **RMDs for 2023 and Beyond** - Beginning in 2023, if you were born in 1951 or later, you are required to take a minimum distribution from your SIMPLE IRA for the year in which you reach age 73 and for each year thereafter. You must take your first distribution by your required beginning date, which is April 1 of the year following the year you attain age 73. The minimum distribution for any taxable year is equal to the amount obtained by dividing the account balance at the end of the prior year by the applicable divisor.
  2. **RMDs Prior to 2023** - If you were born before July 1, 1949, you were required to take your first RMD from your SIMPLE IRA for the year in which you attained age 70½ and for each year thereafter. If you were born on or after July 1, 1949, but before January 1, 1951, you were required to take your first RMD from your SIMPLE IRA for the year in which you attained age 72 and for each year thereafter.
  3. The applicable divisor generally is determined using the Uniform Lifetime Table provided by the IRS. If your spouse is your sole designated beneficiary for the entire calendar year, and is more than 10 years younger than you, the required minimum distribution is determined each year using the actual joint life expectancy of you and your spouse obtained

from the Joint Life Expectancy Table provided by the IRS, rather than the life expectancy divisor from the Uniform Lifetime Table.

We reserve the right to do any one of the following by your required beginning date.

- (a) Make no distribution until you give us a proper withdrawal request
- (b) Distribute your entire SIMPLE IRA to you in a single sum payment
- (c) Determine your required minimum distribution each year based on your life expectancy calculated using the Uniform Lifetime Table, and pay those distributions to you until you direct otherwise

If you fail to remove an RMD, an excess accumulation penalty tax of 25 percent is imposed on the amount of the RMD that should have been taken but was not. If the failure to take an RMD is corrected in a timely manner, the penalty tax is further reduced to 10 percent. You must file IRS Form 5329 along with your income tax return to report and remit any additional taxes to the IRS.

The correction window for the reduced penalty begins on the date the penalty tax is imposed and ends (1) the date a notice of deficiency regarding the tax is mailed, (2) the date the tax is assessed, or (3) the last day of the second taxable year beginning after the year in which the tax is imposed, whichever is earlier.

J. **Beneficiary Distributions** – Upon your death, your beneficiaries of your SIMPLE IRA Account are required to take distributions pursuant to Sections 401(a)(9) of the IRC and Treasury Regulation 1.408-8. These requirements are summarized as follows:

1. **Death of SIMPLE IRA Owner Before January 1, 2020** – Your designated beneficiary is determined based on the beneficiaries designated as of the date of your death, who remain your beneficiaries as of September 30 of the year following the year of your death. If you die,

- (a) on or after your required beginning date, distributions must be made to your beneficiaries over the longer of the single life expectancy of your designated beneficiaries, or your remaining life expectancy. If a beneficiary other than a person or qualified trust as defined in the Treasury Regulations is named, you will be treated as having no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA for purposes of determining the distribution period. If there is no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA, distributions will commence using your single life expectancy, reduced by one in each subsequent year.
- (b) before your required beginning date, the entire amount remaining in your Account will, at the election of your designated beneficiaries, either:
  - (i) be distributed by December 31 of the year containing the fifth anniversary of your death, or
  - (ii) be distributed over the remaining life expectancy of your designated beneficiaries.

If your spouse is your sole designated beneficiary, he or she must elect either option (i) or (ii) by the earlier of December 31 of the year containing the fifth anniversary of your death, or December 31 of the year life expectancy payments would be required to begin. Your designated beneficiaries, other than a spouse who is the sole designated beneficiary, must elect either option (i) or (ii) by December 31 of the year following the year of your death. If no election is made, distribution will be calculated in accordance with option (ii). In the case of distributions under option (ii), distributions

must commence by December 31 of the year following the year of your death. Generally, if your spouse is the designated beneficiary, distributions need not commence until December 31 of the year you would have attained RMD age, if later. If a beneficiary other than a person or qualified trust as defined in the Treasury Regulations is named, you will be treated as having no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA for purposes of determining the distribution period. If there is no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA, the entire SIMPLE IRA must be distributed by December 31 of the year containing the fifth anniversary of your death.

A spouse beneficiary will have all rights as granted under the Code or applicable Treasury Regulations to treat your SIMPLE IRA as his or her own.

If we so choose, for any reason (e.g., due to limitations of our charter or bylaws), we may require that a beneficiary of a deceased SIMPLE IRA account owner take total distribution of all SIMPLE IRA assets by December 31 of the year following the year of death.

If your beneficiary fails to take a required minimum distribution after your death, an additional penalty tax of 25 percent is imposed on the amount of the required minimum distribution that should have been taken but was not. Your beneficiary must file IRS Form 5329 along with his or her income tax return to report and remit any additional taxes to the IRS. If the failure to take an RMD is corrected in a timely manner, the penalty tax is further reduced to 10%.

You should consult a tax advisor and IRS Publication 590 for specific tax rules and consequences regarding your SIMPLE IRA.

2. **Death of SIMPLE IRA Owner On or After January 1, 2020**

– Upon your death, the entire amount in your SIMPLE IRA Account will be distributed by December 31 of the year containing the 10th anniversary of your death unless you have an eligible designated beneficiary under Treasury Regulations or you have no designated beneficiary for purposes of determining a distribution period. This requirement applies to beneficiaries regardless of whether you die before, on, or after your required beginning date. If your beneficiary is an eligible designated beneficiary, the entire amount in your SIMPLE IRA Account can be distributed over the remaining life expectancy of your eligible designated beneficiary (or a period not exceeding that life expectancy).

An eligible designated beneficiary under Treasury Regulations is a designated beneficiary who is (1) your surviving spouse; (2) your child who has not yet reached the age of majority; (3) disabled [determined by a physician that the impairment can be expected to result in death or to be of long, continued and indefinite duration]; or (4) chronically ill [defined as someone who is (1) unable to perform without substantial assistance from another individual at least two activities of daily living for an indefinite period due to a loss of functional capacity, (2) has a level of disability similar to the level of disability described above requiring assistance with daily living based on loss of functional capacity, or (3) requires substantial supervision to protect the individual from threats to health and safety due to severe cognitive impairment.] Special rules apply to trust beneficiaries and distributions for those trust beneficiaries.

Life expectancy distributions to an eligible designated beneficiary must begin by December 31 of the year following the year of your death. If your spouse, however, is the eligible designated beneficiary, distributions need not begin until the year you would have reached RMD age. If your eligible designated beneficiary is your minor child, the life expectancy payments must begin by December 31 of the year following

the year of your death and will continue until your child reaches the age of majority. Then, the eligible designated beneficiary will have 10 years from that date to distribute the SIMPLE IRA Account.

If you name a beneficiary other than a person (such as a trust, estate or charity), we will treat you as having not designated a beneficiary for your IRA Account for purposes of determining the distribution period. If you die before your required beginning date and there is no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA Account, the entire SIMPLE IRA must be distributed by December 31 of the year containing the fifth anniversary date of your death. If you die on or after your required beginning date and there is no designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA Account, distributions will begin using your single life expectancy, reduced by one in each subsequent year.

A spouse who is the sole designated beneficiary of your entire SIMPLE IRA will be deemed to elect to treat your SIMPLE IRA as his or her own by either

(i) making contributions to your SIMPLE IRA or (ii) failing to timely remove a required minimum distribution from your SIMPLE IRA. Regardless of whether or not the spouse is the sole designated beneficiary of your SIMPLE IRA, a spouse beneficiary may roll over his or her share of the assets to his or her own SIMPLE IRA.

If your beneficiary fails to take a required minimum distribution after your death, an additional penalty tax of 25 percent is imposed on the amount of the required minimum distribution that should have been taken but was not. Your beneficiary must file IRS Form 5329 with his or her income tax return to report and pay any additional penalty taxes to the IRS.

- K. **Qualifying Longevity Annuity Contracts and RMDs** – A qualifying longevity annuity contract (QLAC) is a deferred annuity contract that, among other requirements, must guarantee lifetime income starting no later than age 85.

When calculating your RMD, you may reduce the prior year end account value by the value of QLACs that your SIMPLE IRA holds as investments.

For more information on QLACs, you may wish to refer to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

#### INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF ESTABLISHING A SIMPLE IRA

- A. **Deductibility for Simple IRA Contributions** – You may not take a deduction for the amounts contributed to your SIMPLE IRA as either employee elective deferrals or employer contributions. However, employee elective deferrals to a SIMPLE IRA will reduce your taxable income. Further, employer SIMPLE IRA contributions, including earnings, will not be taxable to you until you take a distribution from your SIMPLE IRA.

Participation in your employer's SIMPLE IRA plan renders you an active participant for purposes of determining whether or not you can deduct contributions to a Traditional IRA.

- B. **Contribution Deadline** – SIMPLE IRA deferral contributions must be deposited into the SIMPLE IRA as soon as administratively possible, but in no event later than 30 days following the month in which you would have otherwise received the money in cash. Employer matching or non-elective contributions must be deposited no later than the due date for filing the employer's tax return, including extensions.
- C. **Tax Credit for Contributions** – You may be eligible to receive a tax credit for your SIMPLE IRA deferrals. You may be eligible for this tax credit if you are (1) age 18 or older as of the close of the taxable year; (2) not a dependent of another taxpayer; and (3)

not a full-time student. This credit may be up to \$1,000 but is subject to limitations based upon modified adjusted gross income and filing status. The credit is based upon your income and will range from 0 to 50 percent of eligible contributions. In order to determine the amount of your contributions, please refer to IRS Form 8880 to determine your credit rate.

- D. **Tax-Deferred Earnings** – The investment earnings of your SIMPLE IRA are not subject to federal income tax until distributions are made (or, in certain instances, when distributions are deemed to be made).
- E. **Excess Contributions** – If you contribute more than the maximum allowable limit for the tax year, you have an excess contribution and must correct it. Excess deferrals, adjusted for earnings, must be distributed from your SIMPLE IRA.

If your employer mistakenly contributes too much to your SIMPLE IRA as an employer contribution, your employer may effect distribution of the employer excess amount, adjusted for earnings through the date of distribution. The amount distributed to the employer is not includible in your gross income.

Excess contributions not returned could subject you to an excise tax.

- F. **Income Tax Withholding** – Any withdrawal from your SIMPLE IRA is subject to federal income tax withholding. You may, however, elect not to have withholding apply to your SIMPLE IRA withdrawal. If withholding is applied to your withdrawal, not less than 10 percent of the amount withdrawn must be withheld from your SIMPLE IRA.
- G. **Early Distribution Penalty Tax** – Generally, if you receive a distribution from your SIMPLE IRA before you attain age 59½, an additional early distribution penalty tax of 10 percent (25 percent if less than two years have passed since you first participated in a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer) will apply to the taxable amount of the distribution. However, you will not receive an early distribution penalty tax if the distribution is due to: (1) death [no penalty payment for your beneficiary]; (2) a disability [evidenced by physician attestation that your impairment can be expected to result in death or to be of long, continued, and indefinite duration]; (3) substantially equal periodic payments at least annually by you over your life expectancy or the joint life expectancy of your designated beneficiary so long as you continue these payments for the longer of five years or until you reach age 59½; (4) unreimbursed medical expenses in excess of 10% of your adjusted gross income; distribution penalty tax. The medical expenses may be for you, your spouse, or any dependent listed on your tax return; (5) health insurance premiums paid by qualified unemployed individuals; (6) qualified higher education expenses; (7) acquisition costs for a first-time homebuyer for a principal residence subject to certain requirements; (8) an IRS levy; (9) qualified reservist distributions if you are called to active duty for more than 179 days or an indefinite period; qualified birth or adoption; (11) terminal illness; (12) qualified disaster recovery distribution; (13) domestic abuse; and (14) emergency personal expenses.
- You must file IRS Form 5329 along with your income tax return to the IRS to report and remit any additional taxes or to claim a penalty tax exception.
- H. **Rollovers and Conversions** – Your SIMPLE IRA may be rolled over to another SIMPLE IRA, Traditional IRA, or an eligible employer-sponsored retirement plan of yours, may receive rollover contributions, or may be converted to a Roth IRA, so long as you comply with the applicable rollover and conversion rules established by the IRS. A rollover occurs when your cash or assets are moved to a SIMPLE IRA from another SIMPLE IRA, Traditional IRA, or from your employer's qualified retirement plan, 403(a) annuity plan, 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity, or 457(b)



eligible governmental deferred compensation plan. The amount rolled over is not subject to taxation or the additional 10 percent early distribution penalty tax. Conversion on the other hand is a taxable event where assets in a SIMPLE IRA are moved to a Roth IRA. As the requirements can be complicated, you should see a tax advisor if you have questions.

1. **SIMPLE IRA to SIMPLE IRA Rollover.** - Assets distributed from your SIMPLE IRA may be rolled over to a SIMPLE IRA if you meet the requirements of IRC Section 408(d)(3). For example, a SIMPLE IRA rollover to a SIMPLE IRA is required to be completed within 60 days after the distribution is received.

Regardless of the number of IRAs you own, you are only permitted to roll over one distribution from an IRA (Traditional, Roth, or SIMPLE) in a 12-month period.

2. **Traditional IRA to SIMPLE IRA Rollovers.** - Funds distributed from your Traditional IRA may be rolled over to a SIMPLE IRA if you meet the requirements of IRC Section 408(d)(3) and two years have passed since you first participated in a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer. A Traditional IRA rollover to SIMPLE IRA must occur within 60 days after you receive the distribution.

Regardless of the number of IRAs you own, you are only permitted to roll over one distribution from an IRA (Traditional, Roth, or SIMPLE) in a 12-month period.

3. **Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan to SIMPLE IRA Rollovers.** - You may roll over, directly or indirectly, any eligible rollover distribution from an eligible employer-sponsored retirement plan to a SIMPLE IRA provided two years have passed since you first participated in the SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer. An eligible rollover distribution is defined generally as any distribution from a qualified retirement plan, 403(a) annuity, 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity, 457(b) eligible governmental deferred compensation plan, or federal Thrift Savings Plan unless it is a required minimum distribution, hardship distribution, part of a certain series of substantially equal periodic payments, corrective distributions of excess contributions, excess deferrals, excess annual additions and any income allocable to the excess, deemed loan distribution, dividends on employer securities, the cost of life insurance coverage, or a distribution of Roth elective deferrals from a 401(k), 403(b), governmental 457(b), or federal Thrift Savings Plan.

If you elect to receive your rollover distribution prior to placing it in a SIMPLE IRA, thereby conducting an indirect rollover, your plan administrator generally will be required to withhold 20 percent of your distribution as a payment of income taxes. When completing the rollover, you may make up out of pocket the amount withheld, and roll over the full amount distributed from your employer-sponsored retirement plan. To qualify as a rollover, your eligible rollover distribution must be rolled over to your SIMPLE IRA not later than 60 days after you receive the distribution. Alternatively, you may claim the withheld amount as income, and pay the applicable income tax, and if you are under age 59 1/2, the 10 percent early distribution penalty tax (unless an exception to the penalty applies).

As an alternative to the indirect rollover, your employer generally must give you the option to directly roll over your employer-sponsored retirement plan balance to a SIMPLE IRA. If you elect the direct rollover option, your eligible rollover distribution will be paid directly to the SIMPLE IRA (or other eligible employer-sponsored retirement plan) that you designate. The 20 percent withholding requirements that do not apply to direct rollovers.

4. **SIMPLE IRA to Traditional IRA Rollovers.** - Assets distributed

from your SIMPLE IRA may be rolled over to your Traditional IRA without IRS penalty tax, provided two years have passed since you first participated in a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer. As with SIMPLE IRA-to-SIMPLE IRA rollovers, the requirements of IRC Section 408(d)(3) must be met. A SIMPLE IRA to-Traditional IRA rollover must be completed within 60 days after you receive the distribution.

Regardless of the number of IRAs you own, you are only permitted to roll over only one distribution from an IRA (Traditional, Roth, or SIMPLE) in a 12-month period.

5. **SIMPLE IRA-to-Employer-Sponsored Retirement Plan Rollovers.** - You may roll over, directly or indirectly, any eligible rollover distribution from a SIMPLE IRA to an employer's qualified retirement plan, 403(a) annuity, 403(b) tax-sheltered annuity, or 457(b) eligible governmental deferred compensation plan, provided two years have passed since you first participated in a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer. The employer-sponsored retirement plan, however, must allow for such rollover contributions. A SIMPLE IRA may not receive rollovers from employer-sponsored retirement plans.

6. **SIMPLE IRA to Roth IRA Conversions.** - You are eligible to convert all or any portion of your existing SIMPLE IRA(s) into your Roth IRA(s), provided two years have passed since you first participated in a SIMPLE IRA plan sponsored by your employer. If you convert to a Roth IRA, the amount of the conversion from your SIMPLE IRA to your Roth IRA will be treated as a distribution for income tax purposes, and is includable in your gross income. Although the conversion amount generally is included in income, the 10 percent early distribution penalty tax will not apply to conversions from a SIMPLE IRA to a Roth IRA, regardless of whether you qualify for any exceptions to the 10 percent early distribution penalty tax. If you are age 70 1/2 or older you must remove your required minimum distribution before converting your SIMPLE IRA.

7. **Written Election.** - At the time you make a rollover to a SIMPLE IRA, you must designate in writing to the Custodian your election to treat that contribution as a rollover. Once made, the rollover election is irrevocable.

- I. **Recharacterizations** - If you make a contribution to a SIMPLE IRA and later recharacterize either all or a portion of the original contribution to a Roth IRA along with net income, you may elect to treat the original contribution as having been made to the Roth IRA. You can also recharacterize a contribution from a Roth IRA to a SIMPLE IRA. The deadline for completing a recharacterization is your tax filing deadline for the year for which the original contribution was made. You may not recharacterize a Roth IRA conversion.

J. **Repayments of Certain Distributions**

1. **Qualified Birth or Adoption Distributions.** - If you have taken a qualified birth or adoption distribution, you may generally pay all or a portion of the aggregate amount of such distribution to a SIMPLE IRA at any time during the three-year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received. In the case of a qualified birth or adoption distribution made on or before December 29, 2022, the deadline to repay the distribution is December 31, 2025.

2. **Terminal Illness Distributions.** - If you have taken a distribution due to a terminal illness, you may generally pay all or a portion of the aggregate amount of such distribution to a SIMPLE IRA at any time during the three-year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received.

3. **Domestic Abuse Distributions.** - Beginning in 2024, if you

have taken a distribution because you are a victim of domestic abuse, you may generally pay all or a portion of the aggregate amount of such distribution to a SIMPLE IRA at any time during the three year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received.

4. **Emergency Personal Expense Distributions.** - Beginning in 2024, if you had taken an emergency personal expense distribution, the distribution may be repaid within a three-year period. No further emergency personal expense distributions are allowed during the immediately following three calendar years unless repayment occurs, or you have made SIMPLE IRA contributions after the previous distribution in an amount at least equal to the previous distribution that has not been repaid.
5. **Qualified Disaster Recovery Distributions.** - If you have taken a qualified disaster recovery distribution, the distribution may be recontributed to a SIMPLE IRA at any time during the three year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received.

For further information, you may wish to obtain IRS Publication 590-A, Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), or refer to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

- K. **Not Tax Advice** – Nothing contained within this Disclosure Statement or Custodial Agreement should be construed as tax or investment advice. Due to the specific and complex tax rules under Publication 590 and other regulations, you should seek advice from your tax or investment advisor for details on the specific rules and the tax treatment of your assets.

#### LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- A. **Deduction of Rollovers and Transfers** – A deduction is not allowed for rollover or transfer contributions.
- B. **Gift Tax** – Transfers of your SIMPLE IRA assets to a beneficiary made during your life and at your request may be subject to federal gift tax under IRC Section 2501.
- C. **Special Tax Treatment** – Capital gains treatment and 10-year income averaging authorized by I RC Sec. 402 do not apply to SIMPLE IRA distributions.
- D. **Prohibited Transactions** – If you or your beneficiary engage in a prohibited transaction with your SIMPLE IRA, as described in IRC Section 4975, your entire account will lose its tax-deferred status, and you must include the fair market value of your account in your gross income for that taxable year. You may also incur a tax penalty. Examples of a prohibited transaction include using your SIMPLE IRA assets to buy property for personal use, lending money from your SIMPLE IRA to a disqualified person and taking a loan from your SIMPLE IRA. Please refer to a tax consultant for advice on questions of prohibited transactions.
- E. **Pledging/Security** – If you pledge any portion of your SIMPLE IRA as collateral for a loan, the amount so pledged will be treated as a distribution and will be included in your gross income for that year.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

- A. **IRS Plan Approval** – The agreement used to establish this SIMPLE IRA has been approved by the IRS. The IRS approval is a determination only as to form. It is not an endorsement of the plan in operation or of the investments offered.
- B. **No Prediction, Representation or Guarantee of Future Value** – The value of your SIMPLE IRA at any time will depend on the amount of contributions to it, the performance of its investments as selected by you or your Authorized Agent, and the time and amount of charges to and payments from it. Equity Trust does not

predict, represent or guarantee the value of your IRA at any future time.

- C. **Non-Deposit Investments Not Secured by FDIC** – Non-deposit investments, such as, but not limited to stocks, bonds, mutual funds, real property and private placements, of the SIMPLE IRA are not FDIC insured and are subject to investment risks, including the loss of principal.
- D. **Disaster Related Relief** – If you qualify for disaster related relief as specifically provided by Congress, you may be eligible for favorable tax treatment on distributions, rollovers, and other transactions related to your SIMPLE IRA Account. Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) from the IRS will provide additional information for you for these favorable tax treatment opportunities, as well as the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov). Qualified disaster relief may include penalty-tax free early distributions made during specified time frames for each disaster, the ability to include distributions in your gross income ratably over multiple years, the ability to roll over distributions to an eligible retirement plan without regard to the 60-day rollover rule, and more.

**Qualified Disaster Recovery Distributions.** If your principal residence is located in a qualified disaster area and you have sustained an economic loss by reason of such disaster, you may receive up to \$22,000 per disaster in aggregate distributions from your retirement plans and IRAs as qualified disaster recovery distributions. A qualified disaster is any major disaster declared by the President under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act after January 26, 2021. These distributions are not subject to the 10 percent early distribution penalty tax. In addition, unless you elect otherwise, any amount required to be included in your gross income for such taxable year shall be included ratably over a three-taxable year period, beginning with the taxable year of the distribution. Qualified disaster recovery distributions may be repaid at any time generally within a three-year period beginning on the day after the date the distribution was received.

**Repayments of Withdrawals for Home Purchase.** If you received a qualified first-time homebuyer distribution to purchase or construct a principal residence in the qualified disaster area, but which was not used on account of the qualified disaster, you are able to repay the distribution within 180 days of the applicable date of such disaster. The distribution must have been received during the period (1) beginning 180 days before the first day of the FEMA declared incident period, and (2) ending 30 days after the last day of the FEMA declared incident period.

For additional information on specific disasters, including a complete listing of disaster areas, qualification requirements for relief, and allowable disaster-related SIMPLE IRA transactions, you may wish to obtain IRS Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), from the IRS or refer to the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

- E. **Qualified Reservist Distributions** – If you are an eligible qualified reservist who has taken penalty free qualified reservist distributions from your SIMPLE IRA or retirement plan, you may recontribute those amounts to an IRA generally within a two-year period from your date of return.
- F. **Additional Information** – You may obtain further information on SIMPLE IRAs from your District Office of the IRS. In particular, you may wish to obtain IRS Publication 590-A, Contributions to Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), and Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs), by calling 1-800-TAXFORM, by visiting any district office of the Internal Revenue Service or by visiting [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) on the Internet.