

South Carolina Code of Regulations 13-502. Dishonest or Unethical Practices by Investment Advisers, Investment Adviser Representatives and Federal Covered Advisers.

A. Each investment adviser and investment adviser representative shall observe high standards of commercial honor and just and equitable principals of trade in the conduct of their business. Acts and practices, including but not limited to the following, are considered contrary to such standards and may constitute grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of registration, imposition of administrative fines, or such other action authorized by statute:

(1) Recommending to a client to whom investment supervisory, management or consulting services are provided the purchase, sale or exchange of any security without reasonable grounds to believe that the recommendation is suitable for the client on the basis of information furnished by the client after reasonable inquiry concerning the client's investment objectives, financial situation and needs, and any other information known or acquired by the adviser after reasonable examination of the client's records as may be provided to the adviser.

(2) Placing an order to purchase or sell a security for the account of a client without authority to do so.

(3) Placing an order to purchase or sell a security for the account of a client upon instruction of a third-party without first having obtained a written third-party trading authorization from the client.

(4) Exercising any discretionary power in placing an order for the purchase or sale of securities without first obtaining written discretionary authority unless the discretionary power relates solely to the price at which, or the time when, an order involving a definite amount of specified securities shall be executed, or both.

(5) Inducing trading in a client's account that is excessive in size and frequency in view of the financial resources, investment objectives and character of the account.

(6) Borrowing money or securities from a client unless the client is a broker-dealer, an affiliate of the adviser, or a financial institution engaged in the business of loaning funds or securities.

(7) Loaning money to a client unless the adviser is a financial institution engaged in the business of loaning funds or the client is an affiliate of the adviser.

(8) Misrepresenting to any advisory client, or prospective advisory client, the qualifications of the adviser, its representatives or any employees or misrepresenting the nature of the advisory services being offered or fees to be charged for such services or omitting to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made regarding

qualifications, services or fees, in light of the circumstances under which they are made, not misleading.

(9) Providing a report or recommendation to any adviser client prepared by someone other than the adviser, without disclosing that fact except that this prohibition does not apply to a situation where the adviser uses published research reports or statistical analyses to render advice or where an adviser orders such a report in the normal course of providing service.

(10) Charging a client an advisory fee that is unreasonable.

(11) Failing to disclose to a client in writing before entering into or renewing an advisory agreement with that client any material conflict of interest relating to the adviser, its representatives or any of its employees, which could reasonably be expected to impair the rendering of unbiased and objective advice including:

(a) Compensation arrangements connected with advisory services to clients which are in addition to compensation from such clients for such services; and

(b) Charging a client an advisory fee for rendering advice without disclosing that a commission for executing securities transactions pursuant to such advice will be received by the adviser, its representatives or its employees or that such advisory fee is being reduced by the amount of the commission earned by the adviser, its representatives or employees for the sale of securities to the client.

(12) Guaranteeing a client that a specific result will be achieved (gain or no loss) as a result of the advice which will be rendered.

(13) Publishing, circulating or distributing any advertisement which does not comply with Rule 206(4)-1 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(14) Disclosing the identity, affairs, or investments of any client to any third party unless required by law to do so, or unless consented to by the client.

(15) Taking any action, directly or indirectly, with respect to those securities or funds in which any client has any beneficial interest, where the adviser has custody or possession of such securities or funds when the adviser's action is subject to and does not comply with the safekeeping requirements of Rule 206(4)-2 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(16) Entering into, extending or renewing any investment advisory contract unless such contract is in writing and discloses, in substance, the services to be provided, the term of the contract, the advisory fee or the formula for computing the fee, the amount or the manner of calculation of the amount of the prepaid fee to be returned in the event of contract termination or non-performance, whether the contract grants discretionary power to the adviser or its representatives and that no assignment of such contract shall be made by the adviser without the consent of the other party to the contract.

(17) Failing to establish, maintain, and enforce written policies and procedures reasonably designed to prevent the misuse of material nonpublic information in violation of Section 204A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(18) Entering into, extending, or renewing any advisory contract which would violate section 205 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. This provision shall apply to all investment advisers registered or required to be registered under the South Carolina Uniform Securities Act of 2005, notwithstanding whether such investment adviser would be exempt from federal registration pursuant to section 203(b) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(19) Indicating, in an advisory contract, any condition, stipulation, or provisions binding any person to waive compliance with any provision of the South Carolina Uniform Securities Act of 2005 or of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, or any other practice that would violate section 215 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(20) Engaging in any act, practice, or course of business which is fraudulent, deceptive, or manipulative in contravention of section 206(4) of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, notwithstanding the fact that such investment adviser is not registered or required to be registered under section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(21) Employing any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud or engaging in any act, practice or course of business which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit.

(22) Engaging in conduct or any act, indirectly or through or by any other person, which would be unlawful for such person to do directly under the provisions of this act or any rule or order thereunder.

B. The conduct set forth above is not inclusive. Engaging in other conduct such as non-disclosure, incomplete disclosure, or deceptive practices shall also be grounds for denial, suspension or revocation of registration, imposition of administrative fines, or such other action authorized by statute.

C. The provisions of this rule apply to federal covered advisers to the extent that the conduct alleged is fraudulent, deceptive, or other conduct not excluded from regulation pursuant to the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-290). The federal statutory and regulatory provisions referenced in this Rule shall apply to investment advisers, investment adviser representatives and federal covered advisers, regardless of whether the federal provision limits its application to advisers subject to federal registration.