

### BICKLING FINANCIAL SERVICES

### THE BICKLING STORY

The Lexington Minuteman is our corporate hallmark because the independence that the statue symbolizes is an important part of our identity. Our family-run business is independent from corporate obligations or corporate priorities. We perform our own research. We make our *own* decisions on investments that we recommend to clients. This level of independence means that we are free to provide financial and investment advice that we believe is in the best interests of our clients. Our goal is an ongoing partnership with each client.

#### **OUR HERITAGE**

At the inception of Bickling Financial Services, in 1984, the founder, Dorothy Bickling, set the priorities of the firm:

- to provide advice with the best interest of the clients as the sole consideration,
- to make sure that clients confidently understand their investment options,
- to provide sage, objective counsel supporting each client's financial decisions.

#### **OUR FIDUCIARY COMMITMENT**

We are investment fiduciaries on plans we advise.

# AS FINANCIAL PLANNERS AND RETIREMENT PLAN SPECIALISTS

#### We do the research

- We actively monitor market developments.
- We investigate new providers and continually identify choices.
- We invest in continued learning regarding investments, fiduciary rules, standards, and best practices.

#### We educate

- We believe that educating both employers and employees about the choices available to them in retirement plans and investment options is critical to achieving their personal definition of financial success.
- We help plan participants to understand every aspect of their financial picture by offering comprehensive financial planning and education.

Note: Financial planning services are provided to plan participants pursuant to a separate advisory agreement and additional fee.

### We are Certified Financial Planner<sup>TM</sup> professionals

- We provide individualized, comprehensive reviews for businesses and individuals.
- We provide investment fiduciary services for all advisory accounts.
- We are compensated on a "pay-as-you-go" basis, rather than an up-front fee.
- We keep our interests aligned with those of our clients by requiring that our compensation be revenue neutral.
- We strive to help companies minimize fees or penalties for leaving group providers.

In order to provide you the opportunity to focus on your business...we are your retirement plan consultants.

#### FOR EMPLOYERS

### Strategic fee management and full disclosure support

- We explain the compensation received by each service provider.
- We assist in creating a balance of fees between participants and the employer.
- We provide fiduciary support and services.

### Life cycle management

- We provide assistance for oversight of a customized five-year or at break point bid cycle.
- We follow the progress of all providers and aid keeping each plan in the appropriate position.
- We can provide an extensive provider list.

## Fiduciary liability action plan and process support for all advisory accounts

- Our typical service includes assisting preparation of the annual fiduciary meeting minutes, action items, etc.:
  - 404(c) guidance
  - Indemnification of employees
  - Co-fiduciary/Fiduciary warranty review

## Strategies that seek to maximize benefits for key employees

- We educate participants and provide assistance to refine plan structure to drive participation:
  - · Safe Harbor, Profit sharing, Auto enroll, etc.
- We recommend options outside of 401(k):
  - Defined benefit, Non-qualified, ESOP
- We help facilitate business continuation planning:
  - Buy-Sell, Key-Man insurance

#### FOR EMPLOYEES

### An ongoing, committed relationship with a Certified Financial Planner<sup>TM</sup> professional

- The same advisor will develop, maintain and remain responsible for each employee's individual financial plan.\*
- We return calls promptly.

### Organization and simplification through education

- We conduct enrollment meetings as needed.
- We provide annual 401(k) participant education in a small group format.
- We offer workshops on financial topics beyond just 401(k)s.

#### Freedom of choice

- We assist each employee in custom designing appropriate investment allocations:
  - No proprietary requirements
  - Suitable asset allocation
  - Optimized investment menu

# We are financial planners and retirement plan consultants

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### THE PROCESS

EVENTS	MEETING ONE	98	MEETING TWO	<b>B</b>	MEETING THREE	98
REASON	INFORMATION GATHERING	EVALUATION	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATONS	PLATFORM SELECTIONS	PROPOSAL REVIEW	COORDINATE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES
	• Current investments • IRS form 5500 • Enrollment kit • 404 (c) file	Fees     Performance     Fidicuary concerns     Education	<ul> <li>Investment choices</li> <li>Fiduciary risk management</li> <li>Education</li> <li>Client commitment to recommended plan</li> </ul>	Research and identify vendors which match client requirements	• Present and coordinate interviews of vendor finalists	Coordinate transition process     Review 401(k) and alternate plan strategies     Life cycle management
DOCUMENTS REQUIRED	•					
SIGNATURES REQUIRED			•		•	
TIMELINE	1–1½ Hours	2–4 Weeks	1 Hour	2–4 Weeks	2–4 Hours	2 Weeks

### AT BICKLING FINANCIAL SERVICES...

We strive to help reduce the stress of selecting and managing the right retirement program for your organization. We seek to minimize the time it takes you to manage your plan.

We are by your side every step of the way.

### **BICKLING MISSION...**

The ideal retirement plan for your company including:
dynamic investments, dynamic fees,
dynamic compliance and dynamic support.



Spencer Betts, CFP® spencer.betts@lpl.com



Andrew Betts, MBA, CFP® andrew.betts@lpl.com

35 Bedford St., #15, Lexington, MA 02420 • 781.862.9792 • FAX 781.674.2545 • www.bickling.com

FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

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authoritative guidance or tax or legal advice. Each plan has unique requirements, and you should consult
your attorney or tax advisor for guidance on your specific situation. In no way does advisor assure that,
by using the information provided, plan sponsor will be in compliance with ERISA regulations.

Securities and Retirement Plan Consulting Program advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment advisor, member FINRA/SIPC.

Other advisory services offered through Bickling Financial Services, a separate entity from LPL Financial.