

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A MUTUAL FUND COMPLAINT

## To file a complaint with us

If you have a complaint about our services or a product, contact us at:

### Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc.

P.O. Box 3608

Guelph, ON N1H 6P8

Attention: Complaint Resolution team

Email: [CFIS\\_complaints@cooperators.ca](mailto:CFIS_complaints@cooperators.ca)

You may want to consider using a method other than email for sensitive information.

## Tell us

- > what went wrong
- > when it happened
- > what you expect, for example, money back, an apology, account correction

## We will acknowledge your complaint

We will acknowledge your complaint in writing, as soon as possible, typically within 5 business days of receiving your complaint. We may ask you to provide clarification or more information to help us resolve your complaint.

## We will provide our decision

We normally provide our decision in writing, within 90-days of receiving a complaint. It will include:

- > a summary of the complaint;
- > the results of our investigation; and
- > our decision to make an offer to resolve the complaint or deny it, and an explanation of our decision.

## If our decision is delayed

If we cannot provide you with our decision within 90-days, we will:

- > inform you of the delay;
- > explain why our decision is delayed; and
- > give you a new date for our decision.

You may be eligible for the independent dispute resolution service offered by the Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI).

## If you are not satisfied with our decision

You may be eligible for OBSI's dispute resolution service.

## Help us resolve your complaint faster

- > Make your complaint as soon as possible;
- > Reply promptly if we ask you for more information; and
- > Keep copies of relevant documents, such as letters, emails and conversation notes.

## A word about legal advice

You always have the right to go to a lawyer or seek other ways of resolving your dispute at any time. A lawyer can advise you of your legal options. There are time limits for taking legal action. Delays could limit your options and legal rights later. Please consult your province for applicable time and statute limitations.

## If you are a Quebec resident

You may consider the free mediation service offered by the Autorité des marchés financiers.

[www.lautorite.qc.ca](http://www.lautorite.qc.ca)

Tel: 1-514-395-0337

# TAKING YOUR MUTUAL FUND COMPLAINT TO OBSI

## Information OBSI needs to help you

OBSI can help you best if you promptly provide all relevant information, including:

- > Your name and contact information;
- > Our firm's name and contact information;
- > The names and contact information of any of our representatives who have been involved in your complaint;
- > Details of your complaint;
- > All relevant documents, including any correspondence and notes of discussion with us.

## To file a complaint with OBSI

### Contact OBSI

Email: [ombudsman@obsi.ca](mailto:ombudsman@obsi.ca)  
Toll-free: 1-888-451-4519  
In Toronto: 1-416-287-2877

### OBSI will investigate

OBSI works confidentially and in an informal manner. You don't need a lawyer.

During the investigation, OBSI may interview you and representatives of our firm. We are required to cooperate in OBSI's investigations.

### OBSI will provide its recommendations

Once OBSI has completed its investigation, it will provide its recommendations to you and us. OBSI's recommendations are not binding on you or us.

OBSI can recommend compensation of up to \$350,000. If your claim is higher, you will have to agree to that limit on any compensation you seek through OBSI. If you want to recover more than \$350,000, you may want to consider another option, such as legal action, to resolve your complaint.

## Eligibility

You may be eligible for OBSI's free and independent dispute resolution service if:

- > We do not provide our decision within 90-days after you made your complaint, or
- > You are not satisfied with our decision.

OBSI can recommend compensation of up to \$350,000.

OBSI's service is available to clients of our firm. This does not restrict your ability to take a complaint to a dispute resolution service of your choosing at your own expense, or to bring an action in court. Keep in mind there are time limits for taking legal action.

## Who can use OBSI

You have the right to use OBSI's service if:

- > Your complaint relates to a trading or advising activity of our firm or by one of our representatives.
- > You brought your complaint to us within six years from the time you first knew, or ought to have known about the event that caused the complaint.
- > You file your complaint with OBSI according to its time limits below.

## Time limits apply

If we do not provide you with our decision within 90-days, you can take your complaint to OBSI any time after the 90-day period has ended.

If you are not satisfied with our decision, you have up to 180-days after we provide you with our decision to take your complaint to OBSI.

For more information about OBSI, visit [www.obsi.ca](http://www.obsi.ca)

[cooperators.ca](http://cooperators.ca) | 1-833-631-4999

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Co-operators Financial Investment Services Inc.

# MUTUAL FUND DEALERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

## Client Complaint Information Form

Clients of a mutual fund dealer who are not satisfied with a financial product or service have a right to make a complaint and to seek resolution of the problem. Mutual Fund Dealers Association (MFDA) Member dealers have a responsibility to their clients to ensure that all complaints are dealt with fairly and promptly. If you have a complaint, these are some of the steps you can take.

**Contact your mutual fund dealer.** Member firms are responsible to you, the investor, for monitoring the actions of their representatives to ensure that they are in compliance with by-laws, rules and policies governing their activities. The firm will investigate any complaint that you initiate and respond back to you with the results of their investigation within the time period expected of a Member acting diligently in the circumstances, in most cases within three months of the receipt of the complaint. It is helpful if your complaint is in writing.

**Contact the MFDA.** The MFDA is the self-regulatory organization in Canada to which your mutual fund dealer belongs. The MFDA investigates complaints about mutual fund dealers and their representatives and takes enforcement action where appropriate. You may make a complaint to the MFDA at any time, whether or not you have complained to your mutual fund dealer.

The MFDA can be contacted:

- > by completing the online complaint form at [www.mfda.ca](http://www.mfda.ca);
- > by telephone toll-free at 1-888-466-6332 or in Toronto at 1-416-361-6332;
- > by emailing [complaints@mfda.ca](mailto:complaints@mfda.ca);<sup>1</sup>
- > by fax at 1-416-361-9073; or
- > by mail to: **Mutual Fund Dealers Association of Canada**  
121 King Street West – Suite 1000  
Toronto, ON M5H 3T9

### Compensation

The MFDA does not order compensation or restitution to clients of Members. The MFDA exists to regulate the operations, standards of practice and business conduct of its Members and their representatives with a mandate to enhance investor protection and strengthen public confidence in the Canadian mutual fund industry. If you are seeking compensation, you may consider the following:

#### **Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI):**

After the dealer's compliance department has responded to your complaint, you may contact OBSI. You may also contact OBSI if the dealer's compliance department has not responded within 90-days of the date you complained.

OBSI provides an independent and impartial process for the investigation and resolution of complaints about the provision of financial services to clients. OBSI can make a non-binding recommendation that your firm compensate you (up to \$350,000) if it determines that you have been treated unfairly, taking into account the criteria of good financial services and business practice, relevant codes of practice or conduct, industry regulation and the law. The OBSI process is free of charge and is confidential.

OBSI can be contacted:

- > Email: [ombudsman@obsi.ca](mailto:ombudsman@obsi.ca)
- > Toll-free: 1-888-451-4519
- > In Toronto: 1-416-287-2877

**Legal Assistance:** You may consider retaining a lawyer to assist with the complaint. You should be aware that there are legal time limits for taking civil action. A lawyer can advise you of your options and recourses. Once the applicable limitation period expires, you may lose rights to pursue some claims.

**Manitoba, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan:** Securities regulatory authorities in these provinces have the power to, in appropriate cases, order that a person or company that has contravened securities laws in their provinces pay compensation to a claimant. The claimant is then able to enforce such an order as if it were a judgement of the superior court in that province.

For more information, please visit:

- > Manitoba: [www.msc.gov.mb.ca](http://www.msc.gov.mb.ca)
- > New Brunswick: [www.nbsc-cvmnb.ca](http://www.nbsc-cvmnb.ca)
- > Saskatchewan: [www.sfsc.gov.sk.ca](http://www.sfsc.gov.sk.ca)

**Québec:** The Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF) pays indemnities to victims of fraud, fraudulent tactics or embezzlement where those responsible are individuals or firms authorized to practice under the legislation governing the provision of financial services in Québec. It also rules on the eligibility of claims and sets the amount of the indemnities to be paid to victims. Consumers can thus be compensated to a maximum of \$200,000 per claim, through funds accumulated in a financial services compensation fund. For more information, please visit [www.lautorite.qc.ca](http://www.lautorite.qc.ca).

1. You may want to consider using a method other than email for sensitive information.