



# Financial Empowerment for Women

## Investigate Before You Invest

*Check out an individual or firm before you trust them to help you with your money.*

**State Securities regulators should be the first call for any investor before you turn over any money to a broker or investment adviser.**

Investors can access extensive employment, disciplinary and registration information about their stockbroker or investment adviser through their state securities regulator.

Working with a broker? Ask for all materials from the **Central Registration Depository (CRD)** about your prospective stockbroker.

For similar information about an investment adviser, ask for all materials from the **Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD)**.

These computerized databases contain licensing and registration information on more than 650,000 stockbrokers and more than 260,000 investment advisers.

**To find contact information for your state securities regulator, visit NASAA's website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).**

State securities regulators want to help you to make informed decisions before you invest your hard-earned dollars.

While the vast majority of the stockbrokers, brokerage firms, investment advisers and investment adviser firms are honest and reputable, it pays to remember that just like many other professions, there are those individuals and firms who are not.

If you suspect that something is wrong, the sooner you call your state securities regulator, the better. Your call also might help prevent others from being harmed by a fraudulent scheme.

Search the Investment Adviser Public Disclosure (IAPD) website at [www.adviserinfo.sec.gov](http://www.adviserinfo.sec.gov) for information on investment adviser representatives and firms registered with state securities regulators and the Securities and Exchange Commission. Information on brokers is available from the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority's (FINRA) BrokerCheck website at [www.finra.org/brokercheck](http://www.finra.org/brokercheck).

Contact your state securities regulator for the most comprehensive information available on investment professionals and firms.