

## Guide for checking registration

### IS THE FIRM OR PERSON REGISTERED?

The registration should be 'active'. Individuals and firms whose registration is 'historical' only are not registered to trade or advise in securities. Move on to the next person on your list.

A 'suspended' status suggests that the person may have been subject to regulatory action, that their registration is being terminated in one or more categories, that a required fee has not been paid, or that the person has surrendered their registration. Suspended status in any category means that the firm or person may not advise or trade in securities in that category. If the suspension is due to regulatory action, contact [BCSC Inquiries](#) to report the advisor and move on to the next person on your list. If it is for any other reason, be wary and ask questions.

### ARE THERE ANY REGISTRATION CONDITIONS?

Where else has the advisor worked? Advisors and firms may have terms or conditions on their registration for various reasons. If you find 'other' in the terms and conditions section, be sure to read each one carefully. Whether the condition is to take a course, be strictly supervised, avoid soliciting clients in certain circumstances, or anything else, ask the advisor about it. You will then have to decide the extent to which the condition affects their ability to provide you with the investment advice and services you need. If you are not comfortable with the conditions, choose another advisor.

If the firm you are looking up has a long condition that begins with, 'Conditions of Registration Investment Dealers with a BC Office that Trade in the US Over the Counter Markets', do not be concerned. All IIROC dealers with an office in BC have this condition regarding the US over-the-counter-bulletin board markets (OTCBB). The condition supports the BCSC's efforts to better understand OTCBB activity in the province. Even so, we encourage you to ask the advisors you interview about their firm's involvement in the OTCBB.

If the advisor has been registered with a different firm, or in categories that are no longer active, you will find a link to their 'historical' employment history at the end of their active listing. This will show registration history back to March 14, 2003. For earlier information, contact [BCSC Inquiries](#). If the person you are checking has moved frequently, or shows employment gaps, you may want to ask for an explanation, then evaluate the answer you receive against your own values in this area.