



**BENJAMIN F. EDWARDS®**  
INVESTMENTS for GENERATIONS®

## **Financial Planning and Scope of Services Offered – Important Disclosures**

Many Benjamin F. Edwards (BFE) financial advisors are also financial planners, which broadens the scope and depth of financial services they may provide to you. The financial planning process offers a disciplined approach to helping you define and work toward your life goals. Each BFE financial advisor has access to different account types and a wide array of investment products and strategies when implementing financial planning recommendations.

It is important that you understand different types of activities that financial planning entails. For example, after implementing financial planning services, a BFE financial advisor can either provide voluntary account reviews from time to time and recommend rebalancing the portfolio and/or the removal and replacement of investments that no longer align with your stated objectives, or I may provide account monitoring.

### **What Is Account Monitoring?**

Account monitoring entails the periodic review at agreed-upon intervals (e.g., semiannually or annually) and tracking of investment recommendations that either a BFE financial advisor or a third-party investment manager makes after transactions are completed. As stated in BFE's Customer Relationship Summary (commonly referred to as "Form CRS"), which is available on our public website at <https://benjaminfedwards.com/content/documents/FormCRS.pdf>, account monitoring is available only in BFE investment advisory accounts; it is *not* available in brokerage accounts.

This is one of several key distinctions between advisory and brokerage accounts that you must consider when choosing to set up accounts. Our Form CRS also explains the differences between brokerage and advisory accounts, including the different services provided by each and how our financial advisors are compensated in each account type. A BFE financial advisor can work with you to select the account type, or possibly the combination of account types, that is appropriate for you.

### **The Tradeoff**

In some cases, a BFE financial advisor may recommend implementing financial planning recommendations by strategically placing investments that require monitoring in investment advisory accounts and adding investments that we have agreed do not require monitoring to brokerage accounts. This may generate investment cost savings because the investment advisory accounts' holdings typically have significantly more transactions, but you will pay advisory fees based on the value of the account, not fees on a per-transaction basis. On the other hand, the brokerage account's holdings will generally have fewer transactions, and you will pay a fee for each transaction as opposed to an asset-based fee.

The potential for achieving investment cost savings by strategically placing some investments in brokerage accounts should be weighed against the potential benefits of receiving account monitoring in advisory accounts. It is a decision that you will ultimately have to make, but a BFE financial advisor can help you make the decision that is suited to your investment needs and profile.

### **BFE Investment Advisory "Financial Plans"**

Benjamin F. Edwards also provides "Financial Plans" as a service available on our investment advisory platform. Whereas a BFE financial advisor who follows a financial-planning methodology generally approaches your investment needs holistically through financial planning techniques as discussed above, when needed, he or she can also deliver a written financial plan that is specific to a particular objective. In these situations, you will sign an engagement agreement. The agreement is limited in scope – it has a beginning and end. Depending on your needs, the engagement agreement may culminate in a list of financial recommendations that you may either implement here at BFE or at another firm of your choice. Clients typically pay for such financial plans, either at a flat rate or based on an hourly rate and the length of time the plan takes to complete.