



## Customer Relationship Summary

### 1. Introduction

Firsttrade Securities Inc. (“Firsttrade” or “We”) is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) as a broker-dealer and is a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC). Brokerage and investment advisory services and fees differ, and it is important for you to understand these differences. Free and simple tools are available to research firms and financial professionals at [Investor.gov/CRS](http://Investor.gov/CRS), which also provides educational materials about broker-dealers, investment advisers, and investing.

### What investment services and advice can you provide me?

#### 2. Relationships and Services

Firsttrade is an online discount broker-dealer that provides self-directed brokerage services and a complete suite of investment products. Firsttrade **does not** provide investment advice or make recommendations to you on what type of account to open. You decide the type of account, type of investment, and when to purchase or sell an investment. Apex Clearing Corporation is the clearing firm that carries your account.

- We provide self-directed investors with an online and mobile trading platform. The ultimate decision as to your investment strategy and the purchase or sale of investments will be yours.
- The investment products that we provide to you are stocks, Fixed Income Securities, CDs, mutual funds, index funds, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), options, margin investing, Dividend Reinvestment Plans (DRIP’s) and Securities Lending Income Programs.
- Fractional share trading executed by Apex Clearing marked as Principal Trades. Please see [disclosure](#).
- We do not monitor the performance of your account. We do check your account for other purposes such as compliance and to ensure your account does not present undue risk to Firsttrade.

Additional Information:	Please visit our website ( <a href="http://www.firsttrade.com">www.firsttrade.com</a> ) for more detailed information about our broker-dealer products and services.
Conversation Starter:	• <i>Given my financial situation, should I choose a brokerage service? Why or why not?</i>

### What fee will I pay?

#### 3. Fees, Costs, Conflicts and Standard of Conduct

- **Commissions:** Commissions are transaction-based fees charged by brokers. We currently offer \$0 transaction fees (commissions) for **online orders** when you buy or sell a stock, mutual fund, index fund, exchange traded fund or option. There is a fee on **phone orders**: Stocks/ETFs - \$19.95; Options - \$19.95+\$0.50/contract; Load Funds - No Charge; No-Load Funds - \$19.95, which is subtracted from your investment amount at the time of purchase. A Short-Term Redemption Fee of \$19.95 will be applied to redemptions of mutual fund shares held less than 90 days. Please see our fee schedule at [firsttrade.com/pricing](http://firsttrade.com/pricing).
- **Exchange, Regulatory, and Clearing Fees:** Exchanges, clearing houses and regulators may charge Firsttrade fees. These fees may be charged to your account depending on the products you trade.
- **Account Maintenance Fees:** There are no account maintenance or inactivity fees.
- **Subscription Service Fees:** You have free access to the third-party research tool. Financial customers may elect to access market data or other services with a monthly fee.
- **Interest and Financial Costs:** If you borrow on margin or borrow stock for short selling, the margin interest and stock borrow fee will apply to your account, please see our rate chart at [firsttrade.com/pricing/marginrate](http://firsttrade.com/pricing/marginrate).
- **Description of Other Fees and Costs:**

- Mutual funds, index funds and exchange traded funds may impose internal fees and expenses, which will reduce the amount of your investment.
- Bonds and CDs have mark-ups or mark-downs which are costs included in the price you pay for the investment.
- We deliver monthly/quarterly account statements to you electronically or in paper format as instructed by you. If the electronic delivery registration fails an extra mailing fee will apply.
- A standard industry transfer fee will be charged for conducting a complete or partial account transfer to another firm.

Additional Information:	You will pay any applicable fees and costs whether you make or lose money on your investments. Fees and costs will reduce any amount of money you make on your investments over time. Please make sure you understand what fees and costs you are paying.
Conversation Starter:	• <i>Help me understand how these fees and costs might affect my investments. If I give you \$10,000 to invest, how much will go to fees and costs, and how much will be invested for me?</i>

**What are your legal obligations to me when providing recommendations? How does your firm make money and what conflicts of interest do you have?**

We **do not** provide recommendations. The way we make money creates some conflicts with your interests. You should understand and ask us about these conflicts because they can affect the services, we provide you. Here are some examples to help you understand what this means.

- We do not receive any incentives on any investments that you make.
- We do not conduct proprietary trading against customer accounts.
- We receive third-party payments, such as 12b-1 fees from mutual fund companies.
- We share interest revenue from the clearing firm on customer credit and margin balances.
- We receive payment for order flow and securities lending from the clearing firm and market makers, and other third parties through whom Firstrate executes customer orders.

Additional Information:	We mitigate potential conflicts of interest by not providing recommendations as to what investment products to purchase, sell or hold. We prohibit our employees from recommending investments or providing investment, financial, legal or tax advice to retail investors.
Conversation Starter:	• <i>How might your conflicts of interest affect me, and how will you address them?</i>

**How do your financial professionals make money?**

Our financial professionals are paid a fixed base salary and merit-based discretionary bonuses. The bonus component is calculated based on factors including company and individual performance and may include cash and non-cash compensation. They **do not** receive product sales commissions or revenue from advisory services or recommendations.

**Do you or your financial professionals have legal or disciplinary history?**

**4. Disciplinary History**

Yes. Visit [Investor.gov/CRS](https://investor.gov/CRS) for a free and simple search tool to research us and our financial professionals. Firstrate is regulated by the U.S. SEC, FINRA, each of the U.S. stock exchanges and option exchanges, each U.S. state securities regulator. Please go to [brokercheck.finra.org](https://brokercheck.finra.org) for additional information.

**5. Additional Information**

You can find additional information about our services on our web site ([www.firstrate.com](https://www.firstrate.com)). We are a broker-dealer rather than an investment advisory firm. We do not assign registered representatives to manage client accounts. If you have any concerns regarding the service that you receive or request a copy of the *relationship summary*, you can contact us by email at [service@firstrate.com](mailto:service@firstrate.com), or calling us at 800-869-8800.

Conversation Starter:	• <i>Who is my primary contact person? Is he or she a representative of an investment adviser or a broker-dealer? Who can I talk to if I have concerns about how this person is treating me?</i>
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*Custodial Education Savings Account Agreement*  
&  
*Coverdell ESA Custodial Agreement*

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**Plan Establishment:**

Forms needed to establish a **Coverdell ESA:**

1. Coverdell ESA Account Application (Important: The signature of the Responsible Individual should be obtained if someone other than the Depositor will be the Responsible Individual.)
2. IRA Online Service Agreement
3. A copy of Guardian's photo ID
4. Authorization to Transfer Plan Assets to Successor Custodian (complete only if applicable)

Send completed forms along with initial contribution check(s) to your personal broker. All forms should have original signatures and checks should be made payable to **'Firstrade'**

**NOTE:** An individual cash account will be opened with Apex Clearing Corporation (Apex Clearing). The term "beneficiary" used throughout this document refers to the students or child. The title of this account will be:

***Child's Name (Beneficiary)***  
***Education Savings Account***  
***Guardian's Name (Guardian)***  
***Apex, Custodian***

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

**Eligibility**

Any individuals who fall within certain income limits may make contributions up to \$2,000 per year on behalf of a child under the age of 18. Any individual (including the designated beneficiary) can contribute to a Coverdell ESA if the individual's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) for the year is less than \$110,000. For individuals filing joint returns, that amount is \$220,000. There is no limit on the number of separate Coverdell ESAs that can be established for a designated beneficiary. However, total contributions for the beneficiary in any year cannot be more than \$2,000, no matter how many accounts have been established.

**Tax Deferred Earnings / Tax Free Withdrawals**

While contributions are not tax deductible, the earnings in the account grow on a tax deferred basis and distributions are tax free if used to pay qualified education expenses. Qualified education expenses are generally the expenses required for enrollment or attendance of the Designated Beneficiary to eligible educational institutions, such as tuition, room, board, books, supplies and etc. Eligible educational institutions can be either an elementary school or secondary school or a postsecondary school. Any withdrawals not used for qualified education expenses are subject to both income taxes and a 10% IRS penalty and must be distributed to the Designated Beneficiary within 30 days of their 30th birthday.

For additional information on Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA), please visit:

<https://www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch07.html>

**BEFORE EXECUTING THESE FORMS YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH YOUR ATTORNEY OR TAX ADVISOR TO DETERMINE WHETHER THIS COVERDELL ESA WILL ACCOMPLISH YOUR GOALS.**

# COVERDELL EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT

## Apex Clearing Corporation, Custodial ESA Account Agreement

ACCOUNT NUMBER

### 1. ESA Designated Beneficiary (Student/ Child)

Please print. All information must be completed in order for your account to be processed.

FULL NAME OF BENEFICIARY (First/ Middle/ Last)

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER DATE OF BIRTH

HOME ADDRESS (P.O. Box is not sufficient)

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

### 2. Depositor

FULL NAME

ADDRESS SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE TELEPHONE NUMBER EMAIL ADDRESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER

PLEASE INDICATE THE ADDRESS TO WHICH ALL MAIL SHOULD BE SENT  
 Home  Business  P.O. Box

P.O. BOX/ CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE

NAME OF YOUR BANK BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP COUNTRY OF LEGAL RESIDENCE

OCCUPATION EMPLOYER

IF YOU ARE AFFILIATED WITH OR WORK FOR A SECURITIES FIRM, PLEASE SPECIFY COMPANY.

IF YOU ARE A DIRECTOR, 10% SHAREHOLDER OR POLICY-MAKING OFFICER OF A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY, PLEASE SPECIFY THE COMPANY.

HAVE YOU GRANTED TRADING AUTHORIZATION TO ANOTHER PARTY? IF YES, REQUEST TRADING AUTHORIZATION FORM AND PROVIDE NAME OF AGENT  
 Yes  No

If you do not want your name, address and security position released to requesting companies in which you hold securities, please check here.

### 3. Investment Profile

INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE	INVESTMENT EXPERIENCE	ANNUAL INCOME (from all sources)	LIQUID NET WORTH (cash & liquid investments only)	ESTIMATED NET WORTH (excluding residence)	RISK TOLERANCE
<input type="checkbox"/> Capital Preservation (05)	<input type="checkbox"/> None (00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$25,000 (01)	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$50,000 (01)	<input type="checkbox"/> Under \$50,000 (01)	<input type="checkbox"/> Low (01)
<input type="checkbox"/> Income (04)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited (01)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,001 to \$50,000 (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 to \$100,000 (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 to \$100,000 (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium (02)
<input type="checkbox"/> Growth (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> Good (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001 to \$100,000 (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 to \$200,000 (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 to \$200,000 (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> High (03)
<input type="checkbox"/> Speculation (06)	<input type="checkbox"/> Extensive (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001 to \$200,000 (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001 to \$500,000 (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001 to \$500,000 (23)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (08)		<input type="checkbox"/> \$200,001 to \$300,000 (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 to \$1,000,000 (24)	
TAX BRACKET %		<input type="checkbox"/> \$300,001 to \$500,000 (25)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 to \$5,000,000 (25)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001 to \$5,000,000 (25)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001 to \$1,200,001 (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$5,000,001 (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$5,000,001 (26)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Over \$1,200,001 (27)			

### 4. Suitability Information

**TIME HORIZON**  
The number of years planned to invest to achieve a particular financial goal.

Short (Less than 3 Years) (01)  Longest (8 years or more) (03)  
 Average (4 to 7 Years) (02)

**LIQUIDITY NEEDS** The ability to quickly and easily convert all or a portion of the account assets into cash without experiencing significant loss.

Very Important (01)  Not Important (03)  
 Somewhat Important (02)

### 5. Contribution Type

(Check One)

Regular  Transfer  Rollover

### 6. Depositor Authorization

I understand that I have the right to direct the initial investment of contributions to the Education IRA and hereby appoint the following brokerage firm as my agent to execute my directions, as Broker under the terms of the Custodial Agreement.

BROKERAGE FIRM

ACCOUNT NUMBER

<b>7. Responsible Individual</b>	<b>A Responsible Individual must be designated below and must be a parent or legal guardian of Designated Beneficiary</b>			
	FULL NAME OF RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL ( <i>First/ Middle/ Last</i> )			
	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		DATE OF BIRTH	
	HOME ADDRESS ( <i>P.O. Box is not sufficient</i> )			
	CITY/ STATE/ ZIP CODE		TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
	<p><i>Answer "Yes" or "No" to each of the following questions by checking the appropriate box. If a box is not checked for a question, the answer will be deemed to be "No".</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>    The Responsible Individual may change the beneficiary designated under this agreement to another member of the Designated Beneficiary's family described in Section 529(e)(2) in accordance with the Custodian's procedures.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>    <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>    The Responsible Individual shall continue to serve as the Responsible Individual for the custodial account after the Designated Beneficiary attains the age of majority under state law and until such time as all assets have been distributed from the custodial account and the custodial account terminates. If the Responsible Individual becomes incapacitated or dies after the Designated Beneficiary reaches the age of majority under state law, the Responsible Individual shall be the Designated Beneficiary.</p> <p>I understand that I have the power to redirect the investment of contributions to the Education Savings Account and hereby appoint the following brokerage firm as my agent to execute my directions, as Broker under the terms of the Custodial Agreement.</p>			
BROKERAGE FIRM				
ACCOUNT NUMBER				
<b>8. Successor Responsible Individual</b>	In the event of the death or legal incapacity of the Responsible Individual while the Designated Beneficiary is a minor under state law, the following shall become the Responsible Individual. If no successor is named, the Successor Responsible Individual shall be the Designated Beneficiary's remaining parent or successor guardian			
	FULL NAME		RELATIONSHIP	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
	ADDRESS		TELEPHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
<b>9. Signature Section</b>	<p><b>Please read the following ESA Account Terms and sign where indicated.</b></p> <p>1. I acknowledge, by signing this agreement, that I have received, read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions as described in the Apex Clearing Corporation "Disclosure Statement" and "Custodial Agreement". I understand the eligibility requirements for the type of deposit I am making and state that I do qualify to make the deposit.</p> <p><b>2. BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION, I(W E) ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING: (1) THAT, PAGE 3 PARAGRAPH #10.12 OF THE CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS AGREEMENT I (WE) AGREE IN ADVANCE TO ARBITRATE ANY CONTROVERSIES WHICH MAY ARISE BETWEEN OR AMONG ME (US), MY BROKER, AND/OR CLEARING FIRM, (2) RECEIPT OF A COPY OF THE CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT AGREEMENT FOLLOWING THIS APPLICATION AND MY (OUR) AGREEMENT WITH THE TERMS THEREIN AND (3) THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ABOVE IS ACCURATE.</b></p> <p>3. I certify that, under penalty of perjury, my Social Security number on this application is correct.</p> <p>4. I assume complete responsibility for the following:</p> <p>a.) Determining that I am eligible to contribute to an Education Savings Account each year I make a contribution.</p> <p>b.) Insuring that all contributions I make are within the limits set forth by the tax laws.</p> <p>c.) Certify that I am qualified to assume the responsibilities of the Responsible Individual as set forth in this Agreement, if I am designated on this Application as the Responsible Individual.</p> <p>d.) Managing and administering the account and authorizing transactions involving contributions and distributions, if I am designated on this Application as the Responsible Individual.</p> <p>5. I have read and understand the Investment Objective Definitions: <b>Capital Preservation</b> - a conservative investment strategy characterized by a desire to avoid risk of loss; <b>Income</b> - strategy focused on current income rather than capital appreciation; <b>Growth</b> - investing in stocks with strong earnings and/or revenue growth or potential; <b>Speculation</b> - taking larger risks, usually by frequent trading, with hope of higher than-average gain. All strategies involve various types and levels of risk, the most common of which are market, credit, inflation, business and interest rate.</p>			
	ESA DEPOSITOR			DATE
ESA RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL			DATE	
BRANCH APPROVAL			DATE	
<b>For Office Use Only</b>	FIRST TRADE	DATE OPENED	INTRODUCING BROKER / DEALER	CUSTOMER ID VERIFIED ( <i>Must be Completed</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	ACCOUNT NO.	INTRODUCING REP. SIGNATURE		APPROVED BY



Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## IRA Online Service Agreement

Name on Account		Social Security Number	
Home Address (Please provide a street address)	City	State	Zip Code
Home Telephone	Work Telephone	E-mail Address	

### Account Agreement

Rule 14b-1(c) of the Securities Exchange Act, requires us to disclose to an issuer, unless you object, upon their request the name, address and securities position of our customers who are beneficial owners of the issuer's securities which are held by us in nominee name. The issuer would be permitted to use your name and other related information for corporate communication only. If you object to this disclosure, check this box:

I would like to establish a brokerage account with Firstrade Securities Inc. ("Firstrade") which clears all transactions through Apex Clearing Corporation ("Apex"). I acknowledge, by signing this agreement, that I have received, read and understand the terms and conditions in the Firstrade's [Customer Relationship Summary](#) and agree to the terms outlined in Firstrade's [Terms and Conditions](#), including the [Self-directed Trading Account Risk Disclosure](#), [Extended Hours Trading Disclosure](#), [Firstrade Exchange Traded Products \(ETPs\) Disclosure](#), [Fractional Share Trading Disclosure](#), [FINRA Public Disclosure Program](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and [Electronic Services Agreement](#), and agree to abide by these terms and conditions as they apply to my account. I further acknowledge that these terms and conditions may be amended from time to time and agree to abide by these changes.

I acknowledge, by signing this agreement, that I have received, read, understand and agree to the terms and conditions as described in the Apex "Individual Retirement Custodial Account Agreement". I understand the eligibility requirements for the type of IRA deposit I am making and state that I do qualify to make the deposit.

I agree to participate in the FDIC sweep program. I have read and understand the sweep program terms and conditions available at [www.firstrade.com/fdicterms](http://www.firstrade.com/fdicterms), <http://www.apexclearing.com/disclosures/>, and the Section 6 of Firstrade Customer Account Agreement.

I agree that Firstrade does not provide legal or tax advice, and will not advise me concerning the nature, potential value, or suitability of any particular security, transaction, or investment strategy. I understand that investments purchased through Firstrade are not insured by the FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation), are not obligations of or guaranteed by any financial institution and are subject to investment risk and loss.

**I further acknowledge that I have received, read and understand the predispute arbitration clause located in the [Firstrade Customer Account Agreement](#), Section 35, and agree to resolve any disputes arising out of my IRA account by arbitration.**

**W-9 Certification:** under penalties of perjury, I certify that: 1. the number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and 2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and 3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and 4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct. Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are: • An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien; • A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States; • An estate (other than a foreign estate); or • A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

**E-DOCUMENTS ENROLLMENT:** I acknowledge that I will receive trade confirmations, account statements, tax-related documents, proxies, prospectuses, and other eligible account documents electronically according to the [Electronic Document Delivery Agreement](#). An e-mail notification will be sent to my e-mail address on the same day that any electronic documents become available. If a valid email address is not provided, I will receive paper copies of account documents by regular mail to my address on record. I will be responsible for any fees that may apply.

I acknowledge that the information provided in the Account Application is accurate and correct.

X

Applicant's Signature (signature must match identification provided)

Date

Please submit this form with a copy of valid personal ID by document upload: Log in to Firstrade website, go to Customer Service -> Form Center -> Upload Form.

### For Office Use Only

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer ID  
Verified:

Yes  
 No

# COVERDELL ESA CUSTODIAL ACCOUNT

Form 5305-EA Under Section 530 of the Internal Revenue Code

FORM (REV. MARCH 2002)

The Depositor whose name appears on the Application is establishing a Coverdell Education Savings Account under Section 530 for the benefit of the Designated Beneficiary whose name appears on the Application exclusively to pay for the qualified elementary, secondary, and higher education expenses, within the meaning of Section 530(b)(2), of such Designated Beneficiary.

The Depositor has assigned the custodial account the sum indicated on the Application.

The Depositor and the Custodian make the following agreement:

## ARTICLE I

The Custodian may accept additional cash contributions provided the Designated Beneficiary has not attained the age of 18 as of the date such contributions are made. Contributions by an individual contributor may be made for the tax year of the Designated Beneficiary by the due date of the beneficiary's tax return for that year (excluding extensions). Total contributions that are not rollover contributions described in section 530(d)(5) are limited to \$2,000 for the tax year. In the case of an individual contributor, the \$2,000 limitation for any year is phased out between modified adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$95,000 and \$110,000. For married individuals filing jointly, the phase-out occurs between modified AGI of \$190,000 and \$220,000. Modified AGI is defined in section 530(c)(2).

## ARTICLE II

No part of the custodial account funds may be invested in life insurance contracts, nor may the assets of the custodial account be commingled with other property except in a common investment fund (within the meaning of Section 530(b)(1)(D)).

## ARTICLE III

1. Any balance to the credit of the Designated Beneficiary on the date on which he or she attains age 30 shall be distributed to him or her within 30 days of such date.
2. Any balance to the credit of the Designated Beneficiary shall be distributed within 30 days of his or her death **unless** the designated death beneficiary is a Family Member of the Designated Beneficiary and is under the age of 30 on the date of death. In such case, that Family Member shall become the Designated Beneficiary as of the date of death.

## ARTICLE IV

The Depositor shall have the power to direct the Custodian regarding the investment of the amount listed on the Application assigned to the custodial account (including earnings thereon) in the investment choices offered by the Custodian. The Responsible Individual, however, shall have the power to redirect the Custodian regarding the investment of such amounts, as well as the power to direct the Custodian regarding the investment of all additional contributions (including earnings thereon) to the custodial account. In the event that the Responsible Individual does not direct the Custodian regarding the investment of additional contributions (including earnings thereon), the initial investment direction of the Depositor also will govern all additional contributions made to the custodial account until such time as the Responsible Individual otherwise directs the Custodian. Unless otherwise provided in this agreement, the Responsible Individual also shall have the power to direct the Custodian regarding the administration, management, and distribution of the account.

## ARTICLE V

The Responsible Individual named by the Depositor shall be a parent or guardian of the Designated Beneficiary. The custodial account shall have only one Responsible Individual at any time. If the Responsible Individual becomes incapacitated or dies while the Designated Beneficiary is a minor under state law, the successor Responsible Individual shall be the person named to succeed in that capacity by the preceding Responsible Individual in a witnessed writing or, if no successor is so named, the successor Responsible Individual shall be the Designated Beneficiary's other parent or successor guardian. Unless otherwise directed by checking the option on the Application, at the time that the Designated Beneficiary attains the age of majority under state law, the Designated Beneficiary becomes the Responsible Individual. If a Family Member under the age of majority under state law becomes the Designated Beneficiary by reason of being a named death beneficiary, the Responsible Individual shall be such Designated Beneficiary's parent or guardian.

## ARTICLE VI

*(See the Application and Section 10.04 of this agreement for information regarding the Responsible Individual's ability to change the Designated Beneficiary named by the Depositor.)*

## ARTICLE VII

1. The Depositor agrees to provide the Custodian with all information necessary to prepare any reports required by Section 530(h).
2. The Custodian agrees to submit to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Responsible Individual the reports prescribed by the IRS.

## ARTICLE VIII

Notwithstanding any other articles which may be added or incorporated, the provisions of Articles I through III will be controlling. Any additional articles inconsistent with Section 530 and the related regulations will be invalid.

## ARTICLE IX

This agreement will be amended as necessary to comply with the provisions of the Code and the related regulations. Other amendments may be made with the consent of the Depositor and the Custodian whose signatures appear on the Application.

## ARTICLE X

10.01 *Notices And Change Of Address:* Any required notice regarding this Coverdell ESA will be considered effective when the Custodian mails it to the last address of the intended recipient which the Custodian has in its records. Any notice to be given to the Custodian will be considered effective when the Custodian actually receives it. The Responsible Individual must notify the Custodian of any change of address.

10.02 *Representations And Responsibilities:* The Depositor and the Responsible Individual represent and warrant to the Custodian that any information the Depositor and Responsible Individual have given or will give the Custodian with respect to this agreement is complete and accurate. Further, the Depositor and the Responsible Individual agree that any directions they give the Custodian, or action they take will be proper under this agreement and that the Custodian is entitled to rely upon any such information or directions. The Custodian shall not be liable for acting upon any instructions given by the Responsible Individual named on the Application prior to the time the Custodian receives appropriate written notice that the Designated Beneficiary has met the requirements for assuming control of the Coverdell ESA, or that a new Responsible Individual has been appointed. The Custodian shall not be responsible for losses of any kind that may result from the Depositor's and Responsible Individual's directions to it or the Depositor's and Responsible Individual's actions or failures to act. The Depositor and Responsible Individual agree to reimburse the Custodian for any loss the Custodian may incur as a result of such directions, actions or failures to act. The Custodian has no duty to determine whether the contributions or distributions with respect to this Coverdell ESA comply with the Code, regulations, rulings or this agreement and shall not be responsible for any penalties, taxes, judgments or expenses of the Designated Beneficiary or any Depositor to this Coverdell ESA.

Notwithstanding anything in this agreement to the contrary, the Custodian may establish a policy permitting someone other than the Designated Beneficiary's parent or legal guardian to serve as Responsible Individual, provided the individual is not prohibited by law from serving in that capacity and fulfilling his or her obligations under this agreement.

10.03 *Service Fees:* The Custodian has the right to charge an annual service fee or other designated fees (for example, a transfer, rollover or termination fee) for maintaining this Coverdell ESA. In addition, the Custodian has the right to be reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred in connection with the administration of this Coverdell ESA. The Custodian may charge the Designated Beneficiary separately for any fees or expenses or may deduct the amount of the fees or expenses from the assets in this Coverdell ESA at the Custodian's discretion. The Custodian reserves the right to charge any additional fee upon 30 days notice to the Responsible Individual that the fee will be effective.



Any brokerage commissions attributable to the assets in the Coverdell ESA will be charged to the Coverdell ESA. The Responsible Individual, Depositor or Designated Beneficiary cannot reimburse the Coverdell ESA for those commissions.

#### 10.04 *Investment of Amounts in the Coverdell ESA:*

a. **Direction of Investment** – Except for the limited investment rights granted to the Depositor in Article V of this agreement, the Responsible Individual has the exclusive responsibility for and control over the investment of the assets of the Coverdell ESA. The Responsible Individual shall direct all investment transactions, including earnings and the proceeds from securities sales. The selection of investments, however, shall be limited to any investment vehicle approved and obtainable by the Custodian that the Custodian is capable of holding in the ordinary course of business. For example, investments may include but shall not be limited to common stocks, government and corporate bonds, mutual funds, the purchase of put options on existing positions and writing of covered listed call options. Investments not generating confirmations must be accompanied by additional written instructions. The Custodian shall act as a stockbroker or dealer whenever such services are required.

In the absence of instructions from the Responsible Individual or if the instructions are not in a form acceptable to the Custodian, the Custodian shall hold any uninvested amounts in cash and shall have no responsibility to invest uninvested cash unless and until directed by the Responsible Individual.

All transactions shall be subject to any and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations and the rules, regulations, customs and usages of any exchange, market or clearing house where the transaction is executed and to the Custodian's policies and practices.

After the Responsible Individual's death, the Successor Responsible Individual (Designated Beneficiary, if applicable) shall have the right to direct the investment of Coverdell ESA assets, subject to the same conditions that applied to the Responsible Individual during his or her lifetime under this agreement (including, without limitation, Section 10.02).

b. **Investment Powers and Duties of the Custodian** – The Custodian shall have no discretion to direct any investment in this Coverdell ESA. The Custodian assumes no responsibility for rendering investment advice with respect to the Coverdell ESA, nor will the Custodian offer any opinion or judgment on matters concerning the value or suitability of any investment or proposed investment for this Coverdell ESA. The Custodian shall exercise the voting rights and other shareholder rights with respect to securities in the Coverdell ESA but only in accordance with the instructions provided by the Responsible Individual or an investment advisor appointed by the Responsible Individual.

The Responsible Individual shall have the power and authority in the administration of this agreement to do all acts, including by way of illustration but not in limitation of the powers conferred by law, the following:

- (1) Pursuant to the direction of the Responsible Individual or a properly appointed agent's direction, to invest and reinvest all or any part of the assets in securities obtainable through the Custodian and to invest in any lawful investment which is administratively acceptable to the Custodian without any duty to diversify and without regard to whether such property is authorized by the laws of any jurisdiction for investment by the Custodian;
- (2) Pursuant to the direction of the Responsible Individual or a properly appointed agent's direction, to hold part or all of the uninvested assets or to place the same in a savings account approved by the Responsible Individual or purchase a Certificate of Deposit with an institution approved by the Responsible Individual;
- (3) To employ suitable agents and counsel and to pay them reasonable expenses and compensation;
- (4) Pursuant to the directions of the Responsible Individual or a properly appointed agent's direction, to vote in person or by proxy with respect to securities held by the Custodian and to delegate its discretionary power;
- (5) Pursuant to the directions of the Responsible Individual or a properly appointed agent's direction (and subject to approval of Custodial Account for option trading privileges), to write covered listed call options against existing positions, to liquidate or close such option contracts, and to purchase put options on existing long positions (the same securities cannot be used to simultaneously cover more than one position);
- (6) Pursuant to the direction of the Responsible Individual or a properly appointed agent's direction, to consent to or participate in dissolutions,

reorganizations, consolidations, mergers, sales, leases, mortgages, and transfers or other changes affecting securities held by the Custodian;

- (7) To leave any securities or cash for safekeeping or on deposit, with or without interest, with such banks, brokers and other custodians as the Custodian may select, and to hold any securities in bearer form or in the name of these banks, brokers and any other custodians or in the name of the custodian without qualification or description or in the name of any nominee; and
- (8) Prior to the entry of any orders to purchase or sell securities in the Coverdell ESA account, the Responsible Individual or his or her agent shall approve beforehand all such orders and direct the Custodian to implement such instructions. Selling short and executing purchases in an amount greater than available cash are prohibited. All investments outside of the cash account shall be accompanied by additional written instructions.

c. **Delegation of Investment Responsibility** – The Custodian may, but is not required to, permit the Responsible Individual to delegate investment responsibility for the Coverdell ESA to another party acceptable to the Custodian by giving written notice of the delegation in a format prescribed by the Custodian. Any such delegation of investment responsibility shall be to an investment advisor under the Investment Advisors Act of 1940. If the assets of the Coverdell ESA are to be directed by an investment advisor, the Responsible Individual shall deliver to the Custodian a copy of the instruments appointing the investment advisor evidencing the investment advisor's acceptance of such appointment, an acknowledgment by the investment advisor that it is a fiduciary, and a certificate evidencing the investment advisor's current registration under said Act. The Custodian shall be fully protected in relying upon such instruments and certificate until otherwise notified in writing by the Responsible Individual. The Custodian shall follow the direction of any such party who is properly appointed and shall be under no duty to review or question, nor be responsible for, any of that party's directions, actions or failures to act.

The investment advisor at any time may issue orders for the purchase or sale of securities directly to a broker; and in order to facilitate such transaction, upon request the Custodian shall execute and deliver appropriate trading authorizations. Written notification of the issuance of each order shall be confirmed by written advice via confirms or otherwise to the Custodian by the investment advisor.

The Responsible Individual hereby agrees to fully indemnify the Custodian and hold the Custodian harmless from and against any claim or liability which may be asserted against the Custodian by reason of its acting or not acting pursuant to any direction from the investment advisor or failing to act in the absence of any such direction.

#### 10.05 *Beneficiary(ies):*

1. Unless indicated otherwise on the Application, the Responsible Individual may not change the Designated Beneficiary. If the Depositor has indicated on the Application that the Responsible Individual may change the beneficiary designated under this agreement and the Responsible Individual chooses to do so, the Responsible Individual must designate a member of the family (as defined in Section 529(e)(2)) of the existing Designated Beneficiary. This designation can only be made on a form prescribed by the Custodian.
2. The Depositor or Responsible Individual may name one or more person or entity as death beneficiary of this Coverdell ESA. This designation can only be made on a form prescribed by the Custodian and it will only be effective when it is filed with the Custodian during the lifetime of the Designated Beneficiary. Each beneficiary designation filed with the Custodian will cancel all previous ones unless the beneficiary designation specifies otherwise. The consent of a death beneficiary shall not be required in order to revoke a death beneficiary designation. If a death beneficiary is not designated with respect to this Coverdell ESA, the Designated Beneficiary's estate will be the death beneficiary.

10.06 *Termination:* Either the Custodian or the Responsible Individual may terminate this agreement at any time by giving written notice to the other. The Custodian can resign as Custodian at any time effective 30 days after mailing written notice of its resignation to the Responsible Individual. Upon receipt of that notice, the Responsible Individual must make arrangements to transfer the Coverdell ESA to another financial organization. If the Responsible Individual does not complete a transfer of the Coverdell ESA within 30 days from the date the Custodian mails the notice to the Responsible Individual, the Custodian has the right to transfer the Coverdell ESA assets to a successor Coverdell ESA trustee or custodian that the Custodian chooses in its sole discretion or the Custodian may pay the Coverdell ESA balance to the Designated Beneficiary in a single sum. The Custodian shall not be liable for any actions or failures to act on the

part of any successor trustee or custodian nor for any tax consequences the Designated Beneficiary may incur that result from the transfer or distribution of the Coverdell ESA assets pursuant to this section.

If this agreement is terminated, the Custodian may hold back from the Coverdell ESA a reasonable amount of money that it believes is necessary to cover any one or more of the following:

- \* any fees, expenses or taxes chargeable against the Coverdell ESA;
- \* any penalties associated with the early withdrawal of any savings instrument or other investment in the Coverdell ESA.

If the Custodian is merged with another organization (or comes under the control of any Federal or State agency) or if the entire organization (or any portion which includes the Coverdell ESA) is bought by another organization, that organization (or agency) shall automatically become the trustee or custodian of the Coverdell ESA, but only if it is the type of organization authorized to serve as a Coverdell ESA trustee or custodian and the following contingency is fulfilled. The resignation, removal or merger of the Custodian shall not be effective until: The transfer of assets shall be made coincidentally with an accounting by the resigned or removed Custodian and such resigned or removed Custodian shall endorse, transfer, convey and deliver to the successor Custodian all of the funds, securities or other property then held by it under this agreement, together with such records as may be reasonably required in order that the successor Custodian may properly administer the agreement.

If the Custodian is required to comply with Section 1.408-2(e) of the Treasury Regulations and fails to do so, or the Custodian is not keeping the records, making the returns or sending the statements as are required by forms or regulations, the IRS may, after notifying the Responsible Individual or the Designated Beneficiary, require that a substitute trustee or custodian be appointed.

- 10.07 *Amendments:* The Custodian shall have the right to amend this agreement at any time. Any amendment the Custodian makes to comply with the Code and related regulations does not require the Responsible Individual's consent. Other amendments may be made with the consent of the Responsible Individual. The Responsible Individual will be deemed to have consented to any other amendment unless, within 30 days from the date the Custodian mails the amendment, the Responsible Individual notifies the Custodian in writing that the Responsible Individual does not consent.
- 10.08 *Transfers From Other Plans:* The Custodian can receive amounts transferred to the Coverdell ESA from the custodian or trustee of another Coverdell ESA.
- 10.09 *Liquidation Of Assets:* The Custodian has the right to liquidate assets in the Coverdell ESA if necessary to make distributions or to pay fees, expenses or taxes properly chargeable against the Coverdell ESA. If the Responsible Individual fails to direct the Custodian as to which assets to liquidate, the Custodian will decide in its complete and sole discretion and the Responsible Individual agrees not to hold the Custodian liable for any adverse consequences that result from the Custodian's decision.
- 10.10 *Restrictions On The Fund:* Neither the Responsible Individual, the Designated Beneficiary (nor anyone acting on behalf of the Designated Beneficiary), the Depositor nor any contributor may sell, transfer or pledge any interest in the Coverdell ESA in any manner whatsoever, except as provided by law or this agreement.

The assets in the Coverdell ESA shall not be responsible for the debts, contracts or torts of the Responsible Individual, the Designated Beneficiary, the Depositor or any person entitled to distributions under this agreement.

- 10.11 *What Law Applies:* This agreement is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. If it is necessary to apply any State law to interpret and administer this agreement, the law of the State of New York shall govern. Any court accounting shall be in the courts of New York.

If any part of this agreement is held to be illegal or invalid, the remaining parts shall not be affected. Neither the Responsible Individual's nor the Custodian's failure to enforce at any time or for any period of time any of the provisions of this agreement shall be construed as a waiver of such provisions, or the parties' right thereafter to enforce each and every such provision.

- 10.12 **ARBITRATION AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PREDISPUTE ARBITRATION CLAUSE. BY SIGNING AN ARBITRATION AGREEMENT THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

**a. ALL PARTIES TO THIS AGREEMENT ARE GIVING UP THE RIGHT TO SUE EACH OTHER IN COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A TRIAL BY JURY EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORM IN WHICH A CLAIM IS FILED;**

**b. ARBITRATION AWARDS ARE GENERALLY FINAL AND BINDING; A PARTY'S ABILITY TO HAVE A COURT REVERSE OR MODIFY AN ARBITRATION AWARD IS VERY LIMITED.**

**c. THE ABILITY OF THE PARTIES TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTS, WITNESS STATEMENTS AND OTHER DISCOVERY IS GENERALLY MORE LIMITED IN ARBITRATION THAN IN COURT PROCEEDINGS;**

**d. THE ARBITRATORS DO NOT HAVE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON(S) FOR THEIR AWARD UNLESS, IN AN ELIGIBLE CASE, A JOINT REQUEST FOR AN EXPLAINED DECISION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED BY ALL PARTIES TO THE PANEL AT LEAST 20 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST SCHEDULED HEARING DATE.**

**e. THE PANEL OF ARBITRATORS WILL TYPICALLY INCLUDE A MINORITY OF ARBITRATORS WHO WERE OR ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE SECURITIES INDUSTRY.**

**f. THE RULES OF SOME ARBITRATION FORUMS MAY IMPOSE TIME LIMITS FOR BRINGING A CLAIM IN ARBITRATION. IN SOME CASES, A CLAIM THAT IS INELIGIBLE FOR ARBITRATION MAY BE BROUGHT IN COURT.**

**g. THE RULES OF THE ARBITRATION FORUM IN WHICH THE CLAIM IS FILED, AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO, SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO THIS AGREEMENT.**

**THE FOLLOWING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISCLOSURES ABOVE. ANY AND ALL CONTROVERSIES, DISPUTES OR CLAIMS BETWEEN THE CUSTOMER AND YOU, OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, OR THE AGENTS, REPRESENTATIVES, EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS OR CONTROL PERSONS OF YOU OR THE INTRODUCING BROKER, ARISING OUT OF, IN CONNECTION WITH, FROM OR WITH RESPECT TO (a) ANY PROVISIONS OF OR THE VALIDITY OF THIS AGREEMENT OR ANY RELATED AGREEMENTS, (b) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES HERETO, OR (c) ANY CONTROVERSY ARISING OUT OF YOUR BUSINESS, THE INTRODUCING BROKER'S BUSINESS OR THE CUSTOMER'S ACCOUNTS, SHALL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO THE CODE OF ARBITRATION PROCEDURE OF THE FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY ("FINRA"). ARBITRATION MUST BE COMMENCED BY SERVICE OF A WRITTEN DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION OR A WRITTEN NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ARBITRATE. THE DECISION AND AWARD OF THE ARBITRATOR(S) SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE AND BINDING UPON ALL PARTIES, AND ANY JUDGMENT UPON ANY AWARD RENDERED MAY BE ENTERED IN A COURT HAVING JURISDICTION THEREOF, AND NEITHER PARTY SHALL OPPOSE SUCH ENTRY.**

**No person shall bring a putative or certified class action to arbitration, nor seek to enforce any pre-dispute arbitration agreement against any person who has initiated in court a putative class action; or who is a member of a putative class who has not opted out of the class with respect to any claims encompassed by the putative class action until: (i) the class certification is denied; or (ii) the class is de-certified; or (iii) the customer is excluded from the class by the court. Such forbearance to enforce an agreement to arbitrate shall not constitute a waiver of any rights under this agreement except to the extent stated herein.**

- 10.13 *Accounting:* Within 90 days from the close of each Custodial Account Year, the Custodian shall render an accounting (valuing the assets fair market value) to the Responsible Individual, which accounting may consist of copies of regularly issued broker-dealer statements to the Custodian. In the absence of the filing in writing with the Custodian of exceptions or objections to any such accounting, within 30 days after the mailing of such accounting, the Responsible Individual and the Designated Beneficiary shall be deemed to have approved such accounting. In such case, or upon the Responsible Individual's written approval, the Custodian shall be released, relieved and discharged with respect to all matters and things set forth in such accounting as though such accounting had been settled by the decree of a court of competent jurisdiction. No person other than the Responsible Individual may require an accounting or bring any action against the Custodian with respect to this agreement or the Custodian's actions.

The Custodian reserves the right to apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for judicial settlement of its accounts, for determination of any questions of construction which may arise or for instructions. The Responsible Individual shall be the only necessary party defendant to such action except the Custodian may, if it so elects, bring in as a party defendant any other person or persons.

10.14 *Payment For Order Flow / Order Routing:* **“Payment for order flow” is a common and widespread industry practice whereby a brokerage firm receives monetary or non-monetary remuneration in return for the routing of customer orders to a designated exchange, market maker, dealer or market center for execution. Apex Clearing receives payment for order flow on certain transactions in the form of rebates, monetary compensation or an intercompany transfer of funds. Payment for order flow is considered to be compensation to Apex Clearing. Your broker, the introducing firm that clears its trades through Apex Clearing, may or may not be compensated for such orders. The source and nature of any compensation received in connection with a specific transaction will be furnished upon written request of the customer.**

Absent specific instructions from customers, Apex Clearing automatically routes orders in over-the-counter (“OTC”) securities to selected OTC market makers. Selected exchange-traded securities may be routed to affiliated specialists, regional exchanges or designated third-market dealers. All orders are routed to an exchange, market-maker, dealer or market center that matches or improves upon the displayed national best bid or offer for the particular security at the time the order is processed. Price improvement opportunities, or execution at prices superior to the displayed national best bid or offer, may be available for certain transactions in NASDAQ and listed securities from execution destinations to which orders are routed.

## INSTRUCTIONS

*(Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.)*

### PURPOSE OF FORM

Form 5305-EA is a model custodial account agreement that meets the requirements of Section 530(b)(1) and has been pre-approved by the IRS. A Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) is established after the form is fully executed by both the Depositor and the Custodian. This account must be created in the United States for the exclusive purpose of paying the qualified elementary, secondary, and higher education expenses of the Designated Beneficiary.

If the model account is a trust account, see Form 5305-E, Coverdell Education Savings Trust Account.

Do not file Form 5305-EA with the IRS. Instead, the Depositor must keep the completed form in its records.

### DEFINITIONS

*Custodian:* The Custodian must be a bank or savings and loan association, as defined in Section 408(n), or any person who has the approval of the IRS to act as Custodian. Any person who may serve as a Custodian of a Traditional IRA may serve as the Custodian of a Coverdell ESA.

*Depositor:* The Depositor is the person who establishes the custodial account.

*Designated Beneficiary:* The Designated Beneficiary is the person on whose behalf the custodial account has been established.

*Family Member:* Family Members of the Designated Beneficiary include his or her spouse, child, grandchild, sibling, parent, niece or nephew, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law or sister-in-law, and the spouse of any such individual. A first cousin, but not his or her spouse, is also a “family member.”

*Responsible Individual:* The Responsible Individual, generally, is a parent or guardian of the Designated Beneficiary. However, under certain circumstances, the Responsible Individual may be the Designated Beneficiary.

### IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS

The Depositor’s and Designated Beneficiary’s social security numbers will serve as their identification numbers. If the Depositor is a nonresident alien and does not have an identification number, write “Foreign” in the block where the number is requested. The Designated Beneficiary’s social security number is the identification number of his or her Coverdell ESA. If the Designated Beneficiary is a nonresident alien, the Designated Beneficiary’s individual taxpayer identification number is the identification number of his or her Coverdell ESA. An employer identification number (EIN) is required only for a Coverdell ESA for which a return is filed to report unrelated business income. An EIN is required for a common fund created for Coverdell ESAs.

## SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

**Note:** *The age limitation restricting contributions, distributions, rollover contributions, and change of beneficiary are waived for a designated beneficiary with special needs.*

*Article X:* Article X and any that follow may incorporate additional provisions that are agreed to by the Depositor and Custodian to complete the agreement. They may include, for example, provisions relating to: definitions, investment powers, voting rights, exculpatory provisions, amendment and termination, removal of the Custodian, Custodian’s fees, state law requirements, treatment of excess contributions, and prohibited transactions with the Depositor, Designated Beneficiary, or Responsible Individual, etc. Attach additional pages as necessary.

*Optional Provisions in Article V and Article VI:* Form 5305-EA may be reproduced in a manner that provides only those optional provisions offered by the Custodian.

# DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

## REQUIREMENTS OF A COVERDELL ESA

- A. **CASH CONTRIBUTIONS** – A Coverdell ESA contribution must be in cash.
- B. **MAXIMUM CONTRIBUTION** – The total amount that may be contributed to any and all Coverdell ESAs on behalf of a Designated Beneficiary is \$2,000 per year, excluding rollover and transfer contributions.

Contributions may not be made to a Coverdell ESA after the Designated Beneficiary's 18th birthday, except in the case of a special needs beneficiary.

The Coverdell ESA contribution that may be made by a Depositor is further limited if the Depositor's modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) exceeds \$190,000 and he or she is a married individual filing jointly (\$95,000 for single taxpayers). Married individuals filing jointly with MAGI exceeding \$220,000 may not fund a Coverdell ESA. Single individuals with MAGI exceeding \$110,000 may not fund a Coverdell ESA. The MAGI limits apply only to Depositors that are individuals.

If the Depositor is married filing jointly with MAGI between \$190,000 and \$220,000, the maximum Coverdell ESA contribution is determined as follows: (1) subtract the Depositor's MAGI from \$220,000, (2) divide the difference by \$30,000, and (3) multiply the result in step (2) by \$2,000. For example, if the Depositor's MAGI is \$205,000, the maximum Coverdell ESA contribution that may be made by such Depositor is \$1,000. This amount is determined as follows:  $[(\$220,000 \text{ minus } \$205,000) \text{ divided by } \$30,000] \text{ multiplied by } \$2,000$ .

If the Depositor is a single tax filer with MAGI between \$95,000 and \$110,000, the maximum Coverdell ESA contribution is determined as follows: (1) subtract the Depositor's MAGI from \$110,000, (2) divide the difference by \$15,000, and (3) multiply the result in step (2) by \$2,000. For example, if the Depositor's MAGI is \$98,000, the maximum Coverdell ESA contribution that may be made by such Depositor is \$1,600. This amount is determined as follows:  $[(\$110,000 \text{ minus } \$98,000) \text{ divided by } \$15,000] \text{ multiplied by } \$2,000$ .

The Coverdell ESA contribution that may be made by a Depositor is not limited by contributions made by the Depositor to Traditional or Roth IRAs. In addition, there is no earned income requirement to be eligible to contribute to a Coverdell ESA. There is no requirement that the Depositor be related to the Designated Beneficiary in order to make contributions. In addition, the Designated Beneficiary may contribute to his or her own Coverdell ESA.

- C. **ELIGIBLE CUSTODIANS** – The Custodian of the Coverdell ESA must be a bank, savings and loan association, credit union, or person approved by the Secretary of the Treasury.
- D. **COMMINGLING ASSETS** – The assets of the Coverdell ESA cannot be commingled with other property except in a common trust fund or common investment fund.
- E. **LIFE INSURANCE** – No portion of the Coverdell ESA may be invested in life insurance contracts.
- F. **COLLECTIBLES** – The assets of the Coverdell ESA may not be invested in collectibles (within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Sec. 408(m)). A collectible is defined as any work of art, rug or antique, metal or gem, stamp or coin, alcoholic beverage, or other tangible personal property specified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). However, specially minted United States gold and silver bullion coins and certain state-issued coins are permissible investments. Beginning January 1, 1998, platinum coins and certain gold, silver, platinum or palladium bullion (as described in IRC Sec. 408(m)(3)) are also permitted as Coverdell ESA investments.
- G. **REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS** – Except in the case of a special needs beneficiary, the assets of the Coverdell ESA are required to be distributed to the Designated Beneficiary within 30 days of the Designated Beneficiary's attainment of age 30. The Designated Beneficiary will be subject to both income tax and an additional 10 percent tax on the portion of the distribution that represents earnings, if the Designated Beneficiary does not have any qualified education expenses in that year.

Any balance remaining in the Coverdell ESA upon the death of the Designated Beneficiary shall be distributed within 30 days of the Designated Beneficiary's death, unless a death beneficiary is named and the death beneficiary is a qualified family member under age 30. If the death beneficiary is a qualified family member under age 30, that individual will become the Designated Beneficiary as of the date of death.

H. **RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUAL** – The Responsible Individual is generally the parent or guardian of the Designated Beneficiary. However, the financial organization may establish a policy that permits someone other than the Designated Beneficiary's parent or legal guardian to serve as the Responsible individual. Unless otherwise indicated on the Application, the Responsible Individual may not change the Designated Beneficiary. If the Depositor has indicated on the Application that the Responsible Individual may change the Designated Beneficiary, the Responsible Individual may change the Designated Beneficiary to another member of the Designated Beneficiary's family. The Responsible Individual shall perform the following duties.

1. receive a copy of the plan agreement and disclosure statement.
2. direct the Custodian regarding the investment of contributions, including the ability to redirect the investment of the initial contribution.
3. direct the Custodian regarding the administration, management and distribution of the account, unless the plan agreement indicates otherwise.
4. name a successor responsible individual if the need arises.
5. notify the Custodian of any address change for the individuals identified on the plan agreement.
6. remove excess contributions made to the Coverdell ESA.

## INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES OF ESTABLISHING A COVERDELL ESA

- A. **CONTRIBUTIONS NOT DEDUCTED** – No deduction is allowed for Coverdell ESA contributions, including transfer and rollover contributions.
- B. **TAX-DEFERRED EARNINGS** – The investment earnings of the Coverdell ESA are not subject to federal income tax as they accumulate in the Coverdell ESA. In addition, distributions of the Coverdell ESA earnings will be free from federal income tax if the distributions are taken to pay for qualified education expenses, as discussed below.
- C. **TAXATION OF DISTRIBUTIONS** – The taxation of distributions from the Coverdell ESA depends on whether or not the distributions are used for qualified education expenses.

1. **Qualified Education Expenses** – The Designated Beneficiary may take tax-free distributions from a Coverdell ESA to pay for elementary, secondary or post-secondary education expenses at an eligible educational institution. Such expenses include tuition, fees, books, supplies, special needs services, room and board, uniforms, transportation, academic tutoring and supplementary items or services (including extended day programs). Also qualifying are expenses for the purchase of computer technology or equipment, Internet access and related services, if such technology, equipment or services are to be used by the Designated Beneficiary or Designated Beneficiary's family during any of the years the Designated Beneficiary is in school. Qualified expenses may also include amounts contributed to a qualified tuition program.
2. **Nonqualifying Distributions** – If a Designated Beneficiary withdraws amounts from a Coverdell ESA which exceed the qualified education expenses for the same year, or the distributions are not used for qualified education expenses, a portion of the distributions will be taxable. The amount in excess of the qualified education expenses is taxable pro rata, based on the earnings and the basis in the account.

In most cases of a nonqualified distribution, the taxable portion of a Coverdell ESA distribution is also subject to an additional 10 percent tax. There are several exceptions to the 10 percent tax including distributions made payable

- a. to a designated death beneficiary of the Coverdell ESA or to the estate of the Designated Beneficiary following the death of the Designated Beneficiary;
  - b. to the Designated Beneficiary if the Designated Beneficiary is disabled;
  - c. to the Designated Beneficiary if the Designated Beneficiary received a qualified scholarship, an educational assistance allowance or an excludable payment exception, but only to the extent the distribution is not more than the amount of the scholarship, allowance or excludable payment, and
  - d. to the Designated Beneficiary as a removal of excess along with the net income attributable.
3. **Hope or Lifetime Learning Credits** – A Designated Beneficiary may claim the Hope Credit or the Lifetime Learning Credit on his or her federal income tax return in the same taxable year that a tax-free distribution from a Coverdell ESA is claimed, as long as the distribution(s) does not cover the same expenses claimed for the Hope Credit or Lifetime Learning Credit.

D. **ROLLOVERS** – Coverdell ESA amounts may be rolled over to another Coverdell ESA of the same Designated Beneficiary or that of a qualified family member, provided that all of the applicable rollover rules are followed. Rollover is a term used to describe a tax-free movement of cash to a Coverdell ESA from another Coverdell ESA. The rollover rules are generally summarized below. These transactions are often complex. If you have any questions regarding a rollover, please see a competent tax advisor.

1. **Coverdell ESA to Coverdell ESA Rollovers** – Funds distributed from a Coverdell ESA may be rolled over to another Coverdell ESA of the same Designated Beneficiary or that of a qualifying family member if the requirements of IRC Sec. 530(d)(5) are met. A proper Coverdell ESA to Coverdell ESA rollover is completed if all or part of a distribution is rolled over not later than 60 days after the distribution is received. The Responsible Individual may not have completed another rollover from the distributing Coverdell ESA during the 12 months preceding the date the distribution was received. Further, the Responsible Individual may roll the same dollars or assets only once every 12 months.

2. **Qualified Family Member** – A Coverdell ESA may be rolled to another Coverdell ESA of the same Designated Beneficiary or to a Coverdell ESA maintained for the benefit of a qualified family member of the Designated Beneficiary, who is under the age of 30. The age 30 limitation does not apply to qualified family members who are special needs beneficiaries. Qualified family members of the Designated Beneficiary include the Designated Beneficiary's child, grandchild, or stepchild, brother, sister, stepbrother, or stepsister, nephew or niece, parents, stepparents, or grandparents, uncle or aunt, spouses of all the family members listed above, cousin, and Designated Beneficiary's spouse.

E. **CARRYBACK CONTRIBUTIONS** – A contribution is deemed to have been made on the last day of the preceding taxable year if it is made by the deadline for filing the Depositor's income tax return (not including extensions), and the Depositor designates that contribution as a contribution for the preceding taxable year. For example, if the Depositor is a calendar year filer and makes a Coverdell ESA contribution on or before April 15, the contribution is considered to have been made for the previous tax year if the Depositor designates it as such.

#### LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

A. **PROHIBITED TRANSACTIONS** – If the Responsible Individual engages in a prohibited transaction with the Coverdell ESA as described in IRC Sec. 4975, the Coverdell ESA will lose its tax-exempt status and the Designated Beneficiary must generally include the value of the earnings in his or her account in his or her gross income for the year.

B. **PLEDGING** – If the Responsible Individual pledges any portion of the Coverdell ESA as collateral for a loan, the amount so pledged will be treated as a distribution and may be included in the Designated Beneficiary's gross income for that year to the extent that it represents earnings.

C. **ESTATE AND GIFT TAX** – Transfers of Coverdell ESA assets to a death designated beneficiary made during the Designated Beneficiary's life and at his or her request or because of the Designated Beneficiary's failure to instruct otherwise, may be subject to federal gift tax under IRC Sec. 2501 if made after October 22, 1986.

D. **INCOME TAX TREATMENT** – Any withdrawal from the Coverdell ESA is not subject to federal income tax withholding.

#### FEDERAL TAX PENALTIES

A. **EXCESS CONTRIBUTION PENALTY** – An excise tax of 6 percent is imposed upon any excess contribution made to a Coverdell ESA. This tax will apply each year in which an excess remains in the Coverdell ESA. An excess contribution is any contribution amount which exceeds the contribution limit, excluding rollover and direct transfer amounts. The contribution limit is \$2,000 per Designated Beneficiary per year. The contribution limit may be further limited by the Depositor's MAGI as discussed previously. The excess contribution should be removed by the Responsible Individual and made payable to the Designated Beneficiary.

B. **PENALTY REPORTING** – The Designated Beneficiary must file form 5329 with the Internal Revenue Service to report and remit any penalties for excise taxes.

#### OTHER

A. **IRS PLAN APPROVAL** – The agreement used to establish this Coverdell ESA has been approved by the IRS. The IRS approval is a determination only as to form. It is not an endorsement of the plan in operation or of the investments offered.

B. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** – You may obtain further information on Coverdell ESAs from your District Office of the IRS. In particular, you may wish to obtain IRS Publication 970, *Tax Benefits For Higher Education*, by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM, or by visiting [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) on the Internet.

C. **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR OPENING A NEW ACCOUNT** – To help the government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, Federal law requires all financial organizations to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person who opens an account. What this means for you: When you open an account, you are required to provide your name, residential address, date of birth, and identification number. We may require other information that will allow us to identify you.

# PRIVACY POLICY

Apex Clearing Corporation (“Apex”) carries your account as a clearing broker by arrangement with your broker-dealer or registered investment advisor as Apex’s introducing client. At Apex, we understand that privacy is an important issue for customers of our introducing firms. It is our policy to respect the privacy of all accounts that we maintain as clearing broker and to protect the security and confidentiality of non-public personal information relating to those accounts. Please note that this policy generally applies to former customers of Apex as well as current customers.

## Personal Information Collected

In order to service your account as a clearing broker, information is provided to Apex by your introducing firm who collects information from you in order to provide the financial services that you have requested. The information collected by your introducing firm and provided to Apex or otherwise obtained by Apex may come from the following sources and is not limited to:

- Information included in your applications or forms, such as your name, address, telephone number, social security number, occupation, and income;
- Information relating to your transactions, including account balances, positions, and activity;
- Information which may be received from consumer reporting agencies, such as credit bureau reports;
- Information relating to your creditworthiness;
- Information which may be received from other sources with your consent or with the consent of your introducing firm.

In addition to servicing your account, Apex may make use of your personal information for analysis purposes, for example, to draw conclusions, detect patterns or determine preferences.

## Sharing of Non-public Personal Information

Apex does not disclose non-public personal information relating to current or former customers of introducing firms to any third parties, except as required or permitted by law, including but not limited to any obligations of Apex under the USA PATRIOT Act, and in order to facilitate the clearing of customer transactions in the ordinary course of business.

Apex has multiple affiliates and relationships with third party companies. Examples of these companies include financial and non-financial companies that perform services such as data processing and companies that perform securities executions on your behalf. We may share information among our affiliates and third parties, as permitted by law, in order to better service your financial needs and to pursue legitimate business interests, including to carry out, monitor and analyze our business, systems and operations.

## Security

Apex strives to ensure that our systems are secure and that they meet industry standards. We seek to protect non-public personal information that is provided to Apex by your introducing firm or otherwise obtained by Apex by implementing physical and electronic safeguards. Where we believe appropriate, we employ firewalls, encryption technology, user authentication systems (i.e. passwords and personal identification numbers) and access control mechanisms to control access to systems and data. Apex endeavors to ensure that third party service providers who may have access to non-public personal information are following appropriate standards of security and confidentiality. Further, we instruct our employees to use strict standards of care in handling the personal financial information of customers. As a general policy, our staff will not discuss or disclose information regarding an account except; 1) with authorized personnel of your introducing firm, 2) as required by law or pursuant to regulatory request, or 3) as authorized by Apex to a third party or affiliate providing services to your account or pursuing Apex’s legitimate business interests.

## Access to Your Information

You may access your account information through a variety of media offered by your introducing firm and Apex (i.e. statements or online services). Please contact your introducing firm if you require any additional information. Apex may use “cookies” in order to provide better service, to facilitate its customers’ use of the website, to track usage of the website, and to address security hazards. A cookie is a small piece of information that a website stores on a personal computer, and which it can later retrieve.

## Changes to Apex's Privacy Policy

Apex reserves the right to make changes to this policy.

## How to Get in Touch with Apex about this Privacy Policy

For reference, this Privacy Policy is available on our website at [www.apexclearing.com](http://www.apexclearing.com). For more information relating to Apex’s Privacy Policy or to limit our sharing of your personal information, please contact:

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