

# Are you an investor?

## Before responding, ask yourself these questions:

- Do you own stocks or shares in a company listed on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange?
- Do you participate in a mutual fund?
- Have you ever taken part in a government bond issue?
- Have you ever purchased Treasury Bills?

**If you answer yes to any, then you are an investor and you need to be aware of and understand your rights and responsibilities.**



## Your responsibility to ask

Related to these rights, is your responsibility to:

- ask questions of the broker-dealer
- research the background of any securities industry professional with whom you intend to conduct business
- get information on the entity's performance and track record



## It is your responsibility to:

- check the TTSEC's website for a list of individuals and companies registered to offer various investment products
- verify that the investment intermediary with which you are dealing, is registered with the TTSEC
- review the prospectus of every investment opportunity in which you are interested
- ensure that you fully understand the investment products

## Your right to information

All consumers have a right to receive truthful information about any product that they intend to purchase. As an investor, you are a consumer of financial services and you have the right to receive:

- information about an entity's history, expertise and its advisers
- complete information about the risks, obligations, benefits and costs of any potential investment
- investment advice that is consistent with your personal objectives and your risk tolerance



## Your right to choose

Before selecting a product, you should always compare competing alternatives. It is important to:

- Explore all of your options
- Choose the investment products that best satisfy your goals
- Choose the investment provider that best suits your needs
- Your responsibility to comparison shop

## Your right to redress includes:

- The right to receive information on the process for raising and resolving complaints regarding the provision of investment advice
- The right to receive information about alternatives available to you if the entity is unable to resolve a dispute to your satisfaction
- The right to change investment advisers if you are dissatisfied with the service you have received
- The right to lodge a complaint with the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) in relation to any securities matter

You are entitled to complain if you have a problem with an investment product that you have purchased or the service that you have received.

As an investor you have the responsibility to be aware of the process for redress.

1. The first step is to consult the entity so that your concern or problem can be addressed.
2. If that process fails to resolve the issue, then the TTSEC should be informed and may adjudicate upon the matter in accordance with the securities legislation.

However, a loss on your investment due to prevailing market conditions is NOT a legitimate basis for a complaint.

### Remember:

- The best way to protect yourself is always to verify everything that you are told;
- Scams can be very convincing. (If something sounds too good to be true, it usually is!)



## INVESTOR TIPS

### Remember it's your money!

- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Make sure your questions are answered to your satisfaction.
- Take notes during conversations with salespeople.
- Beware of high-pressure sales tactics.
- Never assume a salesperson is an "expert." Always get a second opinion.
- Never accept a verbal agreement – **GET IT IN WRITING.**
- **NEVER** sign any document before reading it carefully.
- If you don't understand a document, consult an attorney or another professional adviser.
- Take your time to make decisions. Don't allow anyone to rush you.



Educate and empower yourself!  
If in doubt, contact the TTSEC!

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Find us on    [ttsec.wordpress.com](http://ttsec.wordpress.com)



## KNOW YOUR INVESTOR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES!

Ask...  
Be informed...  
Review & Verify...  
Choose...  
Redress...



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As the statutory regulator of the nation's securities industry, the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission (TTSEC) is mandated to look after the interests of investors in Trinidad and Tobago. The TTSEC ensures that registrants provide investors and potential investors with timely, pertinent and accurate information so that they can make informed decisions.

Here are three terms that persons wishing to increase their financial well-being need to understand:

### SECURITY

An instrument that signifies an ownership position in a company (a stock), a creditor relationship with a company or government (a bond) or other ownership rights. Three of the main types of securities which are regulated by the TTSEC viz: stocks/shares, bonds and units in a mutual fund.

### INVESTMENT

The purchase of a security with the hope of earning a financial return. This return may take the form of interest, dividend income and/or capital gains i.e. an increase in the security's value in the future.

### PROSPECTUS

A formal written offer to sell securities which commonly provides investors with material (pertinent) information about the investment instruments. It should include a description of the company's business, financial statements, biographies of officers and directors, etc.