



FAQs - Opening New Accounts and Funding Transactions

How do I open a self-directed IRA?

You can open a self-directed IRA account by contacting Vantage at 480-360-8404 or by visiting our website at www.VantageIRAs.com. You'll be asked a few questions regarding the type of account that you'd like to open. Then, we'll provide you with the new account packet. Simply fill out the forms, sign them, and return the originals to Vantage.

How much money should I have in my account to get started?

While there is no minimum amount, the amount you should start with depends on the nature of the deal or investment you plan to make. Keep in mind that administration fees are due when the account is funded. Be sure to also check the contribution limits for the type of account you open.

How long does it take to open an account?

When all paperwork has been completed and received in good order, a new account can be opened within 3 business days.

What are the fees and costs involved?

Because investors have unique investment objectives, we've developed two fee structures. With Option One, fees are based on the number of assets. There is an account establishment fee of \$50 and a recordkeeping fee of \$325 per asset, per year. For example: an account holding one asset = \$325 per year and an account holding six assets = \$1,950 per year. With Option Two, fees are based on the asset value of the account. There is an account establishment fee of \$50 and a recordkeeping fee that ranges from \$195 to \$1,850 per year.

What will suffice as address verification?

Verification includes your name and legal residence. A utility bill which shows service address, voter's registration card, or insurance statement will suffice.

Why do I have to reflect my name on the Application as it appears on the ID?

Compliance requirements stipulate that the account be opened with the legal name as stated on the photo ID.

Will a passport suffice as client identification?

No. A passport alone cannot be used to verify your identity unless accompanied by a document supplying your service address to verify the legal address as listed on the application.

Does my ID card need to be valid?

Yes. The form of identification cannot be expired.

Does the appearance of my signatures matter?

Yes. Signatures must closely resemble the signature on the ID provided.

Do application signatures need to be originals?

Yes. While application information may be electronically entered, all dated signatures provided must be original.

What information is needed to designate a trust as a beneficiary?

A spousal consent (if married) for those living in community property states, as well as a copy or abstract of the trust in question. For example, a title page, beneficiary page, and signature page will suffice. The entirety of the trust is not required.



What is a contingent beneficiary?

The designated contingent beneficiary is the individual entitled to receive the benefits of the IRA should the primary beneficiary become deceased prior to the account holder's death.

Can I change my fee schedule selection?

Yes. Fee schedule selections may be changed before the account funds or on the anniversary date of the account.

How do I find out what the current contribution limits are for my retirement plan?

You can review the contribution limits at www.irs.gov.

Can I transfer my current retirement funds to Vantage?

Yes. The application packet contains transaction documents that you can complete to transfer or rollover your funds to Vantage.

What is a Medallion Guarantee Stamp and why do I need it?

It is a stamp that only your personal financial institution or brokerage firm can provide for you as they have your signature on file. The stamp 'authenticates' your identity. Certain custodians require this stamp to process your request. This is not a Vantage requirement.

What does it mean to liquidate my assets?

When you liquidate your assets, you are selling a portion or all of your investment assets to obtain the cash proceeds and then use them to invest in other assets.

How do I do this? I thought this Vantage Transfer Form did this for me?

Please contact your advisor or broker at your resigning custodian and simply tell them you want to liquidate (sell) all or a portion of your assets. They can assist you on what to sell if you want to obtain a certain dollar amount. The Vantage Transfer Form does not liquidate assets for you because we do not have the authority to do so. The form states that all assets must be liquidated prior to submitting the transfer request to us because this form does not authorize the liquidation of assets.

Why do you need a copy of my statement?

We like to verify as much information as we can to minimize delays. We need to verify the name, account number, type of account, and that there is currently an active account with assets. If it is an "In-Kind" transfer, a statement is required. If it is a "Cash" transfer, a statement is not required but we prefer one to expedite your transfer request.

What does In-Kind mean?

In-Kind means that you will be transferring over an actual asset that may be an LLC, Note, Real Estate, Precious Metals, or Private Stock.

How long does a transfer take?

It depends on how long it takes the resigning custodian to process the request. We often see the process range anywhere from 7 – 21 business days.

Will I be notified when the funds and/or asset is received?

Yes, we will notify you via email once the funds or assets have been received.



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Self-Directed Retirement Plans

When will funds be available to make an investment purchase?

We have a mandatory 5 business day hold on checks from the time they are deposited into your IRA. Wires and cashier's checks will be available the next business day following their deposit into your IRA.

I have a 401(k) plan with my former employer. How can I self-direct the funds?

You can self-direct the funds by rolling over your account into a traditional IRA or a qualified plan (if you are eligible to have a qualified plan) that permits complete self-direction, such as a Vantage Self-Directed IRA. Contact your former employer's plan administrator or benefits department to determine what, if any, special procedures may be required. You may also roll over the assets you have in your old plan to your Vantage IRA "in-kind." "In kind" means that the assets you held in your old qualified plan, 401(k), or other plan are rolled as-is into your IRA. Your former employer can advise you about any in-kind rollover or transfer restrictions. If you are still employed, check with your current plan administrator to determine if self-direction is currently allowed within your plan or if this option can be added.