



IAPD Report

CHRISTOPHER RAY FILES

CRD# 5897323

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Page(s)</u>
Report Summary	1
Qualifications	2 - 3
Registration and Employment History	4
Disclosure Information	5



When communicating online or investing with any professional, make sure you know who you're dealing with. [Imposters](#) might link to sites like BrokerCheck from [phishing](#) or similar scam websites, or through [social media](#), trying to steal your personal information or your money.

Please contact FINRA with any concerns.



IAPD Information About Representatives

IAPD offers information on all current-and many former representatives. Investors are strongly encouraged to use IAPD to check the background of representatives before deciding to conduct, or continue to conduct, business with them.

What is included in a IAPD report?

IAPD reports for individual representatives include information such as employment history, professional qualifications, disciplinary actions, criminal convictions, civil judgments and arbitration awards.

It is important to note that the information contained in an IAPD report may include pending actions or allegations that may be contested, unresolved or unproven. In the end, these actions or allegations may be resolved in favor of the representative, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

Where did this information come from?

The information contained in IAPD comes from the Investment Adviser Registration Depository (IARD) and FINRA's Central Registration Depository, or CRD, (see more on CRD below) and is a combination of:

- information the states require representatives and firms to submit as part of the registration and licensing process, and
- information that state regulators report regarding disciplinary actions or allegations against representatives.

How current is this information?

Generally, representatives are required to update their professional and disciplinary information in IARD within 30 days.

Need help interpreting this report?

For help understanding how to read this report, please consult NASAA's IAPD Tips page <http://www.nasaa.org/IAPD/IARReports.cfm>

What if I want to check the background of an Individual Broker or Brokerage Firm?

To check the background of an Individual Broker or Brokerage firm, you can search for the firm or individual in IAPD. If your search is successful, click on the link provided to view the available licensing and registration information in FINRA's BrokerCheck website.

Are there other resources I can use to check the background of investment professionals?

It is recommended that you learn as much as possible about an individual representative or Investment Adviser firm before deciding to work with them. Your state securities regulator can help you research individuals and certain firms doing business in your state. The contact information for state securities regulators can be found on the website of the North American Securities Administrators Association <http://www.nasaa.org>



Report Summary

CHRISTOPHER RAY FILES (CRD# 5897323)

The report summary provides an overview of the representative's professional background and conduct. The information contained in this report has been provided by the representative, investment adviser and/or securities firms, and/or securities regulators as part of the states' investment adviser registration and licensing process. The information contained in this report was last updated by the representative, a previous employing firm, or a securities regulator on **02/25/2026**.

CURRENT EMPLOYERS

	Firm	CRD#	Registered Since
IA	VAN RAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT	CRD# 304550	02/04/2020

QUALIFICATIONS

This representative is currently registered in **0** SRO(s) and **1** jurisdiction(s).

Is this representative currently Inactive or Suspended with any regulator? **No**

Note: Not all jurisdictions require IAR registration or may have an exemption from registration.

Additional information including this individual's qualification examinations and professional designations is available in the Detailed Report.

REGISTRATION HISTORY

This representative was previously registered with the following firm(s):

	FIRM	CRD#	LOCATION	REGISTRATION DATES
IA	AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC	135288	LYNNWOOD, WA	08/18/2011 - 04/27/2012
B	AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC	135288	LYNNWOOD, WA	04/19/2011 - 04/27/2012

For additional registration and employment history details as reported by the individual, refer to the Registration and Employment History section of the Detailed Report.

DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Disclosure events include certain criminal charges and convictions, formal investigations and disciplinary actions initiated by regulators, customer disputes and arbitrations, and financial disclosures such as bankruptcies and unpaid judgments or liens.

Are there events disclosed about this representative? **Yes**

The following types of events are disclosed about this representative:

Type	Count
Regulatory Event	1
Termination	1



Qualifications

REGISTRATIONS

This section provides the SRO, states and U.S. territories in which the representative is currently registered and licensed, the category of each registration, and the date on which the registration becomes effective. This section also provides, for each firm with which the representative is currently employed, the address of each location where the representative works. This individual is currently registered with **1** jurisdiction(s) and **0** SRO(s) through his or her employer(s).

Employment 1 of 1

Firm Name: **VAN RAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT**
Main Address: 120 WEST DAYTON STREET
SUITE B-6
EDMONDS, WA 98020
Firm ID#: 304550

Regulator	Registration	Status	Date
IA Washington	Investment Adviser Representative	Approved	02/04/2020

Branch Office Locations

VAN RAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT
120 WEST DAYTON STREET
SUITE B-6
EDMONDS, WA 98020



Qualifications

PASSED INDUSTRY EXAMS

This section includes all industry exams that the representative has passed. Under limited circumstances, a representative may attain registration after receiving an exam waiver based on a combination of exams the representative has passed and qualifying work experience. Likewise a new exam requirement may be grandfathered based on a representative's specific qualifying work experience. Exam waivers and grandfathering are not included below.

This individual has passed 0 principal/supervisory exams, 1 general industry/product exam, and 2 state securities law exams.

Principal/Supervisory Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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No information reported.

General Industry/Product Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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B General Securities Representative Examination (S7)	Series 7	04/18/2011
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State Securities Law Exams

Exam	Category	Date
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IA Uniform Investment Adviser Law Examination (S65)	Series 65	02/03/2020
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IA B Uniform Combined State Law Examination (S66)	Series 66	08/01/2019
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PROFESSIONAL DESIGNATIONS

This section details that the representative has reported **0** professional designation(s).

No information reported.



Registration & Employment History

PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED WITH THE FOLLOWING FIRMS

This representative held registrations with the following firms:

	Registration Dates	Firm Name	ID#	Branch Location
IA	08/18/2011 - 04/27/2012	AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC	CRD# 135288	LYNNWOOD, WA
B	04/19/2011 - 04/27/2012	AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC	CRD# 135288	LYNNWOOD, WA

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Below is the representative's employment history for up to the last 10 years.

Employment Dates	Employer Name	Position	Investment Related	Employer Location
09/2019 - Present	VAN RAY WEALTH MANAGEMENT	MANAGING MEMBER/IAR	Y	EDMONDS, WA, United States
06/2011 - Present	VAN WINKLE AGENCY	INSURANCE BROKERAGE MANAGER	Y	LYNNWOOD, WA, United States

OTHER BUSINESS ACTIVITIES

This section includes information, if any, as provided by the representative regarding other business activities the representative is currently engaged in either as a proprietor, partner, officer, director, employee, trustee, agent, or otherwise. This section does not include non-investment related activity that is exclusively charitable, civic, religious, or fraternal and is recognized as tax exempt.

VAN WINKLE AGENCY; INVESTMENT RELATED; INSURANCE BROKERAGE MANAGER/INSURANCE AGENT; 10121 EVERGREEN WAY, SUITE 25-628, EVERETT, WA 98204; START DATE: 06/2011 TO PRESENT; HOURS DEVOTED 120/MONTH.

BULB BIOTECHNOLOGY INC.; NON-INVESTMENT RELATED; PARTNER/CEO; HOME OFFICE OR RIA OFFICE; START DATE: 01/2026 TO PRESENT; HOURS DEVOTED 20/MONTH; MANAGES BUSINESS ACQUISITION AND OPERATIONS.



Disclosure Summary

Disclosure Information

What you should know about reported disclosure events:

(1) Certain thresholds must be met before an event is reported to IARD, for example:

- A law enforcement agency must file formal charges before an Investment Adviser Representative is required to report a particular criminal event.;
- A customer dispute must involve allegations that an Investment Adviser Representative engaged in activity that violates certain rules or conduct governing the industry and that the activity resulted in damages of at least \$5,000.

(2) Disclosure events in IAPD reports come from different sources:

As mentioned in the "About IAPD" section on page 1 of this report, information contained in IAPD comes from Investment Adviser Representatives, firms and regulators. When more than one of these sources reports information for the same disclosure event, all versions of the event will appear in the IAPD report. The different versions will be separated by a solid line with the reporting source labeled.

(3) There are different statuses and dispositions for disclosure events:

- A disclosure event may have a status of *pending*, *on appeal*, or *final*.
 - A "pending" disclosure event involves allegations that have not been proven or formally adjudicated.
 - A disclosure event that is "on appeal" involves allegations that have been adjudicated but are currently being appealed.
 - A "final" disclosure event has been concluded and its resolution is not subject to change.
- A final disclosure event generally has a disposition of *adjudicated*, *settled* or *otherwise resolved*.
 - An "adjudicated" matter includes a disposition by (1) a court of law in a criminal or civil matter, or (2) an administrative panel in an action brought by a regulator that is contested by the party charged with some alleged wrongdoing.
 - A "settled" matter generally represents a disposition wherein the parties involved in a dispute reach an agreement to resolve the matter. Please note that Investment Adviser Representatives and firms may choose to settle customer disputes or regulatory matters for business or other reasons.
 - A "resolved" matter usually includes a disposition wherein no payment is made to the customer or there is no finding of wrongdoing on the part of the Investment Adviser Representative. Such matters generally involve customer disputes.

(4) You may wish to contact the Investment Adviser Representatives to obtain further information regarding any of the disclosure events contained in this IAPD report.



DISCLOSURE EVENT DETAILS

When evaluating this information, please keep in mind that some items may involve pending actions or allegations that may be contested and have not been resolved or proven. The event may, in the end, be withdrawn, dismissed, resolved in favor of the Investment Adviser Representative, or concluded through a negotiated settlement with no admission or finding of wrongdoing.

This report provides the information exactly as it was reported to the Investment Adviser Registration Depository. Some of the specific data fields contained in the report may be blank if the information was not provided.

The following types of events are disclosed about this representative:

Type	Count
Regulatory Event	1
Termination	1

Regulatory Event

This disclosure event may include a final, formal proceeding initiated by a regulatory authority (e.g., a state securities agency, a federal regulator such as the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodities Futures Trading Commission, or a foreign financial regulatory body) for a violation of investment-related rules or regulations. This disclosure event may also include a revocation or suspension of an Investment Adviser Representative's authority to act as an attorney, accountant or federal contractor.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source:	Regulator
Regulatory Action Initiated By:	Washington
Sanction(s) Sought:	Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s) Disgorgement Suspension
Date Initiated:	06/13/2025
Docket/Case Number:	S-25-3913-25-SC01 S-25-3913-25-CO01
URL for Regulatory Action:	
Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:	Van Ray Financial LLC
Product Type:	No Product
Allegations:	From December 10, 2021, to July 1, 2024, Respondent Christopher Files knowingly placed trades and deducted fees from a deceased clients account without the authority to do so.
Current Status:	Final
Resolution:	Consent



Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date:

01/21/2026

Sanctions Ordered:

Cease and Desist

Reporting Source:

Individual

Regulatory Action Initiated By:

STATE OF WASHINGTON/DEPT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Sanction(s) Sought:

Civil and Administrative Penalty(ies)/Fine(s)
Disgorgement
Suspension

Date Initiated:

06/13/2025

Docket/Case Number:

S-25-3913-25SC01/S-25-3913-25-CO01

Employing firm when activity occurred which led to the regulatory action:

VAN RAY FINANCIAL LLC

Product Type:

No Product

Allegations:

FROM DECEMBER 10, 2021 TO JULY 1, 2024, RESPONDENT CHRISTOPHER FILES KNOWINGLY PLACED TRADES AND DEDUCTED FEES FROM A DECEASED CLIENTS ACCOUNT WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

Current Status:

Final

Resolution:

Consent

Does the order constitute a final order based on violations of any laws or regulations that prohibit fraudulent, manipulative, or deceptive conduct?

No

Resolution Date:

01/21/2026

Sanctions Ordered:

Cease and Desist

Broker Statement

Mr. Files placed discretionary orders and deducted advisory fees totaling \$2,500 from an account following the owner's passing, but prior to the assets being transitioned to a beneficiary account. Although the beneficiary was notified promptly in Dec 2021 and Jan 2022, the account opening process was delayed as Mr. Files prioritized the spouse's well-being, allowing her time to grieve while keeping her fully informed of the account's status. He notified Altruist via online chat of the client's passing, which they stated that their policy once they are notified, the account is coded deceased and restricted from trading/cash withdrawals/ rebalancing until the beneficiary account is set up. The custodian did not freeze the account or restrict trading, later clarifying that they required a formal submission they had not previously requested. The spouse remained informed of all account activity. Despite the lack of malicious intent, this was a violation to the client agreement and regulatory action was taken, resulting in \$17,000 in fines and



costs.



Termination

This disclosure event involves a situation where the Investment Adviser Representative voluntarily resigned, was discharged or was permitted to resign after allegations were made that accused the Investment Adviser Representative of violating investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct; fraud or the wrongful taking of property; or failure to supervise in connection with investment-related statutes, regulations, rules or industry standards of conduct.

Disclosure 1 of 1

Reporting Source: Firm
Firm Name: AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 04/27/2012
Allegations: MR. FILES KNOWINGLY FALSIFIED A CLIENTS NEW ACCOUNT FORM.
Product Type: Annuity-Variable

Reporting Source: Individual
Firm Name: AMERICAN INDEPENDENT SECURITIES GROUP, LLC
Termination Type: Discharged
Termination Date: 04/27/2012
Allegations: MR. FILES KNOWINGLY FALSIFIED A CLIENTS NEW ACCOUNT FORM. SEE COMMENTS BELOW.
Product Type: No Product

Broker Statement CLIENT KNOWINGLY AND IN FULL UNDERSTANDING OF ALL MATERIAL INFORMATION, SIGNED FORMS DUPLICATED ON OTHER APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO BROKER. FINRA INVESTIGATION FOUND NO MALICIOUS INTENT IN SUBMITTING PREVIOUS SIGNED DOCUMENTS.



End of Report

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