## Item 1: Cover Page



## Mash Financial Planning, PLLC

12574 Flagler Center Blvd, STE 101 Jacksonville, FL 32258

# Form ADV Part 2A – Firm Brochure (904) 449-7600

Dated March 13, 2023

### www.mashfinancialplanning.com

This Brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of Mash Financial Planning, PLLC, "MFP". If you have any questions about the contents of this Brochure, please contact us at (904) 449-7600. The information in this Brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission or by any state securities authority.

Mash Financial Planning, PLLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Florida. Registration of an Investment Adviser does not imply any level of skill or training. Additional information about MFP is available on the SEC's website at <a href="www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> which can be found using the firm's identification number 300937.

# Item 2: Material Changes

Since the last annual filing of the Form ADV Part 2A for MFP on March 31, 2022, the following material changes have been made:

- We have updated our address.
- We have added Betterment as a custodian
- We have added Tax Prep as an OBA
- We have updated Item 14 to disclose solicitor arrangements

# Item 3: Table of Contents

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## Item 4: Advisory Business

#### **Description of Advisory Firm**

Mash Financial Planning, PLLC is registered as an Investment Adviser with the State of Florida. We were founded in January of 2019. Matthew Riggins is the principal owner of MFP. MFP currently reports \$2,433,549 in discretionary and \$1,409,418 in non-discretionary Assets Under Management as of December 31, 2022.

#### **Types of Advisory Services**

#### **Investment Management Services**

We are in the business of managing individually tailored investment portfolios. Our firm provides continuous advice to a client regarding the investment of client funds based on the individual needs of the client. Through personal discussions in which goals and objectives based on a client's particular circumstances are established, we develop a client's personal investment policy or an investment plan with an asset allocation target and create and manage a portfolio based on that policy and allocation targets. We may also review and discuss a client's prior investment history, as well as family composition and background.

Account supervision is guided by the stated objectives of the client (e.g., maximum capital appreciation, growth, income, or growth, and income), as well as tax considerations. Clients may impose reasonable restrictions on investing in certain securities, types of securities, or industry sectors. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

#### **Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)**

We offer the use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs) for portfolio management services. We assist clients in selecting an appropriate allocation model, completing the Outside Manager's investor profile questionnaire, interacting with the Outside Manager and reviewing the Outside Manager. Our review process and analysis of outside managers is further discussed in Item 8 of this Form ADV Part 2A. Additionally, we will meet with the client on a periodic basis to discuss changes in their personal or financial situation, suitability, and any new or revised restrictions to be applied to the account. Fees pertaining to this service are outlined in Item 5 of this brochure.

#### XY Investment Solutions ("XYIS")

XY Investment Solutions ("XYIS") builds investment models through a technology solution and supports financial planners with investment strategies based on research, experience, and sound rationale. XYIS primarily allocates client assets among various mutual funds, exchange-traded funds ("ETFs"). XYIS may also allocate client assets in individual debt and equity securities, options, and independent investment managers. XYIS's services are based on long-term investment strategies incorporating the principles of Modern Portfolio Theory. XYIS manages client investments in model portfolios on a discretionary basis.

#### Betterment for Advisors as a Sub-Advisor

We may recommend that certain Clients implement their investment portfolios through Betterment for Advisors, a division of Betterment LLC (herein "Betterment" or the "Investment Platform"). Betterment for Advisors is what is often termed a "robo-advisor", an online wealth management service that provides automated, algorithm-based portfolio management advice. We utilize Betterment for Advisors due to the Investment Platform's customized portfolio allocations, automated rebalancing, and competitive fees.

#### **Financial Planning**

We provide financial planning services on topics such as retirement planning, risk management, college savings, cash flow, debt management, work benefits, and estate and incapacity planning.

Financial planning is a comprehensive evaluation of a client's current and future financial state by using currently known variables to predict future cash flows, asset values, and withdrawal plans. The key defining aspect of financial planning is that through the financial planning process, all questions, information, and analysis will be considered as they affect and are affected by the entire financial and life situation of the client. Clients purchasing this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives.

In general, the financial plan will address any or all of the following areas of concern. The client and advisor will work together to select the specific areas to cover. These areas may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Business Planning:** We provide consulting services for clients who currently operate their own business, are considering starting a business, or are planning for an exit from their current business. Under this type of engagement, we work with you to assess your current situation, identify your objectives, and develop a plan aimed at achieving your goals.
- Cash Flow and Debt Management: We will conduct a review of your income and expenses to determine your current surplus or deficit along with advice on prioritizing how any surplus should be used or how to reduce expenses if they exceed your income. Advice may also be provided on which debts to pay off first based on factors such as the interest rate of the debt and any income tax ramifications. We may also recommend what we believe to be an appropriate cash reserve that should be considered for emergencies and other financial goals, along with a review of accounts (such as money market funds) for such reserves, plus strategies to save desired amounts.
- College Savings: Includes projecting the amount that will be needed to achieve college or other
  post-secondary education funding goals, along with advice on ways for you to save the desired amount.
  Recommendations as to savings strategies are included, and, if needed, we will review your financial
  picture as it relates to eligibility for financial aid or the best way to contribute to grandchildren (if
  appropriate).

- Employee Benefits Optimization: We will provide review and analysis as to whether you, as an employee, are taking the maximum advantage possible of your employee benefits. If you are a business owner, we will consider and/or recommend the various benefit programs that can be structured to meet both business and personal retirement goals.
- Estate Planning: This usually includes an analysis of your exposure to estate taxes and your current estate plan, which may include whether you have a will, powers of attorney, trusts, and other related documents. Our advice also typically includes ways for you to minimize or avoid future estate taxes by implementing appropriate estate planning strategies such as the use of applicable trusts. We always recommend that you consult with a qualified attorney when you initiate, update, or complete estate planning activities. We may provide you with contact information for attorneys who specialize in estate planning when you wish to hire an attorney for such purposes. From time-to-time, we will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your attorney with your approval or request.
- **Financial Goals**: We will help clients identify financial goals and develop a plan to reach them. We will identify what you plan to accomplish, what resources you will need to make it happen, how much time you will need to reach the goal, and how much you should budget for your goal.
- **Insurance**: Review of existing policies to ensure proper coverage for life, health, disability, long-term care, liability, home, and automobile.
- Investment Analysis: This may involve developing an asset allocation strategy to meet clients' financial goals and risk tolerance, providing information on investment vehicles and strategies, reviewing employee stock options, as well as assisting you in establishing your own investment account at a selected broker/dealer or custodian. The strategies and types of investments we may recommend are further discussed in Item 8 of this brochure.
- Retirement Planning: Our retirement planning services typically include projections of your likelihood of achieving your financial goals, typically focusing on financial independence as the primary objective. For situations where projections show less than the desired results, we may make recommendations, including those that may impact the original projections by adjusting certain variables (e.g., working longer, saving more, spending less, taking more risk with investments).

If you are near retirement or already retired, advice may be given on appropriate distribution strategies to minimize the likelihood of running out of money or having to adversely alter spending during your retirement years.

• **Risk Management:** A risk management review includes an analysis of your exposure to major risks that could have a significant adverse impact on your financial picture, such as premature death, disability, property and casualty losses, or the need for long-term care planning.

Advice may be provided on ways to minimize such risks and about weighing the costs of purchasing insurance versus the benefits of doing so and, likewise, the potential cost of not purchasing insurance ("self-insuring").

• Tax Planning Strategies: Advice may include ways to minimize current and future income taxes as a part of your overall financial planning picture. For example, we may make recommendations on which type of account(s) or specific investments should be owned based in part on their "tax efficiency," with consideration that there is always a possibility of future changes to federal, state or local tax laws and rates that may impact your situation.

We recommend that you consult with a qualified tax professional before initiating any tax planning strategy, and we may provide you with contact information for accountants or attorneys who specialize in this area if you wish to hire someone for such purposes. We will participate in meetings or phone calls between you and your tax professional with your approval.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

This service involves working one-on-one with a planner over an extended period of time. By paying a fixed monthly or quarterly fee, clients get to work with a planner who will work with them to develop and implement their plan. The planner will monitor the plan, recommend any changes and ensure the plan is up to date.

Upon desiring a comprehensive plan, a client will be taken through establishing their goals and values around money. They will be required to provide information to help complete the following areas of analysis: net worth, cash flow, insurance, credit scores/reports, employee benefit, retirement planning, insurance, investments, college planning and estate planning. Once the client's information is reviewed, their plan will be built and analyzed, and then the findings, analysis and potential changes to their current situation will be reviewed with the client. Clients subscribing to this service will receive a written or an electronic report, providing the client with a detailed financial plan designed to achieve his or her stated financial goals and objectives. If a follow-up meeting is required, we will meet at the client's convenience. The plan and the client's financial situation and goals will be monitored throughout the year and follow-up phone calls and emails will be made to the client to confirm that any agreed upon action steps have been carried out. On an annual basis, there will be a full review of this plan to ensure its accuracy and ongoing appropriateness. Any needed updates will be implemented at that time.

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Our firm provides employee benefit plan services to employer plan sponsors on an ongoing basis. Generally, such services consist of assisting employer plan sponsors in establishing, monitoring and reviewing their company's participant-directed retirement plan. As the needs of the plan sponsor dictate, areas of advising could include: investment options, plan structure, and participant education.

In providing employee benefit plan services, our firm does not provide any advisory services with respect to the following types of assets: employer securities, real estate (excluding real estate funds and publicly traded REITS), participant loans, non-publicly traded securities or assets, other illiquid investments, or brokerage window programs (collectively, "Excluded Assets").

#### **Client Tailored Services and Client Imposed Restrictions**

We offer the same suite of services to all of our clients. However, specific client financial plans and their implementation are dependent upon the client Investment Policy Statement which outlines each client's current situation (income, tax levels, and risk tolerance levels) and is used to construct a client specific plan to aid in the selection of a portfolio that matches restrictions, needs, and targets.

#### Wrap Fee Programs

MFP does not participate in any wrap fee program.

## Item 5: Fees and Compensation

Please note, unless a client has received the firm's disclosure brochure at least 48 hours prior to signing the investment advisory contract, the investment advisory contract may be terminated by the client within five (5) business days of signing the contract without incurring any advisory fees. How we are paid depends on the type of advisory service we are performing. Please review the fee and compensation information below.

#### **Investment Management Services**

Planning and investment advisory fees are annualized and based on a percentage of assets under management (AUM) as outlined below:

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$1- \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.50%
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.40%
\$3,000,001 - \$4,000,000	0.30%
\$4,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.20%
\$5,000,001 and Above	0.10%

The annual fees are negotiable, prorated and paid in arrears on a monthly basis. The advisory fee is a tiered fee and is calculated by assessing the percentage rates using the predefined levels of assets as shown in the above chart and applying the fee to the account value as of the last day of the previous quarter. Our minimum annual fee for Investment Management Services is \$1,200. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Advisory fees are directly debited from client accounts, or the client may choose to pay by check. Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no rebate will be needed upon termination of the account.

#### **Use of Third Party Managers, Outside Managers, or Sub-Advisors (TAMPs)**

When an Outside Manager is used, their fee will be in addition to our standard advisory fee outlined above.

Annual fees are negotiable, prorated and paid in arrears. MFP's fees are billed on a monthly basis. Outside Manager fees may be billed on a monthly or quarterly basis. In most cases, the Outside Manager will debit the client's account for both the Outside Manager's fee, and MFP's advisory fee, and will remit MFP's fee to MFP. In certain cases, the Outside Manager will debit the account for its portion of the fee, and MFP will debit the client account for its portion of the fee. No increase in the annual fee shall be effective without agreement from the client by signing a new agreement or amendment to their current advisory agreement.

Accounts initiated or terminated during a calendar quarter will be charged a prorated fee based on the amount of time remaining in the billing period. An account may be terminated with written notice at least 30 calendar days in advance. Since fees are paid in arrears, no rebate will be needed upon termination of the account.

#### **Comprehensive Financial Planning**

Comprehensive Financial Planning consists of an upfront charge ranging from \$0 to \$2,500, depending on complexity and needs of the client, and an ongoing fee that is paid monthly or quarterly, in advance. For clients paying the fee monthly, the ongoing fee will be 1/12th the annual fee. For clients paying the fee quarterly, the ongoing fee will be 1/4th the annual fee. The fee may be negotiable in certain cases. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. This service may be terminated with 30 days' notice. Upon termination of any account, the fee will be prorated and any unearned fee will be refunded to the client.

The upfront portion of the Comprehensive Financial Planning fee is for client onboarding, data gathering, and setting the basis for the financial plan. This work will commence immediately after the fee is paid, and will be completed within the first 30 days of the date the fee is paid. Therefore, the upfront portion of the fee will not be paid more than 6 months in advance.

#### **Project Based Financial Planning**

Financial Planning will generally be offered on a fixed fee basis. The fixed fee will be agreed upon before the start of any work. The fixed fee can range between \$250.00 and \$750.00 The fee is negotiable. If a fixed fee program is chosen, half of the fee is due at the beginning of the process and the remainder is due at completion of work, however, MFP will not bill an amount above \$500.00 more than 6 months in advance. Fees for this service may be paid by electronic funds transfer or check. Upon termination, the half of the fee that is due up front will be non-refundable, and no further fees will be charged.

#### **Employee Benefit Plan Services**

Account Value	Annual Advisory Fee
\$1- \$1,000,000	1.00%
\$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000	0.50%
\$2,000,001 - \$3,000,000	0.40%
\$3,000,001 - \$4,000,000	0.30%
\$4,000,001 - \$5,000,000	0.20%
\$5,000,001 and Above	0.10%

MFP will be compensated for Employee Benefit Plan services according to the value of plan assets not to exceed 1.50% of total plan assets. Our minimum annual fee for Employee Benefit Plan Services is \$1200. This does not include fees to other parties, such as Record Keepers, Custodians, or Third-Party-Administrators. Fees for this service are either paid directly by the plan sponsor or deducted directly from the plan assets by the Custodian on a quarterly basis, and MFP's fee is remitted to MFP.

#### Other Types of Fees and Expenses

Our fees are exclusive of brokerage commissions, transaction fees, and other related costs and expenses which may be incurred by the client. Clients may incur certain charges imposed by custodians, brokers, and other third parties such as custodial fees, deferred sales charges, odd-lot differentials, transfer taxes, wire transfer and electronic fund fees, and other fees and taxes on brokerage accounts and securities transactions. Mutual fund and exchange traded funds also charge internal management fees, which are disclosed in a fund's prospectus. Such charges, fees, and commissions are exclusive of and in addition to our fee, and we shall not receive any portion of these commissions, fees, and costs.

Item 12 further describes the factors that we consider in selecting or recommending broker-dealers for client's transactions and determining the reasonableness of their compensation (e.g., commissions).

We do not accept compensation for the sale of securities or other investment products including asset-based sales charges or service fees from the sale of mutual funds.

# Item 6: Performance-Based Fees and Side-By-Side Management

We do not offer performance-based fees and do not engage in side-by-side management.

# Item 7: Types of Clients

We provide financial planning and portfolio management services to individuals, high net-worth individuals, pension and profit sharing plans, and corporations or other businesses.

Our minimum account size requirement is \$500.00.

# Item 8: Methods of Analysis, Investment Strategies and Risk of Loss

Our primary methods of investment analysis are fundamental, technical, cyclical and charting analysis.

**Fundamental analysis** involves analyzing individual companies and their industry groups, such as a company's financial statements, details regarding the company's product line, the experience, and expertise of the company's management, and the outlook for the company's industry. The resulting data is used to measure the true value of the company's stock compared to the current market value. The risk of fundamental analysis is that information obtained may be incorrect and the analysis may not provide an accurate estimate of earnings, which may be the basis for a stock's value. If securities prices adjust rapidly to new information, utilizing fundamental analysis may not result in favorable performance.

**Technical analysis** involves using chart patterns, momentum, volume, and relative strength in an effort to pick sectors that may outperform market indices. However, there is no assurance of accurate forecasts or that trends will develop in the markets we follow. In the past, there have been periods without discernible trends and similar periods will presumably occur in the future. Even where major trends develop, outside factors like government intervention could potentially shorten them.

Furthermore, one limitation of technical analysis is that it requires price movement data, which can translate into price trends sufficient to dictate a market entry or exit decision. In a trendless or erratic market, a technical method may fail to identify trends requiring action. In addition, technical methods may overreact to minor price movements, establishing positions contrary to overall price trends, which may result in losses. Finally, a technical trading method may underperform other trading methods when fundamental factors dominate price moves within a given market.

**Cyclical analysis** is a type of technical analysis that involves evaluating recurring price patterns and trends based upon business cycles. Economic/business cycles may not be predictable and may have many fluctuations between long-term expansions and contractions.

The lengths of economic cycles may be difficult to predict with accuracy and therefore the risk of cyclical analysis is the difficulty in predicting economic trends and consequently the changing value of securities that would be affected by these changing trends.

Charting analysis involves the gathering and processing of price and volume information for a particular security. This price and volume information is analyzed using mathematical equations. The resulting data is then applied to graphing charts, which is used to predict future price movements based on price patterns and trends. Charts may not accurately predict future price movements. Current prices of securities may not reflect all information about the security and day-to-day changes in market prices of securities may follow random patterns and may not be predictable with any reliable degree of accuracy.

Use of Outside Managers: We refer clients to third-party investment advisers ("outside managers"). Our analysis of outside managers involves the examination of the experience, expertise, investment philosophies, and past performance of the outside managers in an attempt to determine if that manager has demonstrated an ability to invest over a period of time and in different economic conditions. We monitor the manager's underlying holdings, strategies, concentrations, and leverage as part of our overall periodic risk assessment. Additionally, as part of our due-diligence process, we survey the manager's compliance and business enterprise risks. A risk of investing with an outside manager who has been successful in the past is that he/she may not be able to replicate that success in the future. In addition, as we do not control the underlying investments in an outside manager's portfolio. There is also a risk that a manager may deviate from the stated investment mandate or strategy of the portfolio, making it a less suitable investment for our clients. Moreover, as we do not control the manager's daily business and compliance operations, we may be unaware of the lack of internal controls necessary to prevent business, regulatory or reputational deficiencies.

#### **Passive Investment Management**

We primarily practice passive investment management. Passive investing involves building portfolios that are composed of various distinct asset classes. The asset classes are weighted in a manner to achieve the desired relationship between correlation, risk, and return. Funds that passively capture the returns of the desired asset classes are placed in the portfolio. The funds that are used to build passive portfolios are typically index mutual funds or exchange traded funds.

Passive investment management is characterized by low portfolio expenses (i.e. the funds inside the portfolio have low internal costs), minimal trading costs (due to infrequent trading activity), and relative tax efficiency (because the funds inside the portfolio are tax efficient and turnover inside the portfolio is minimal).

In contrast, active management involves a single manager or managers who employ some method, strategy or technique to construct a portfolio that is intended to generate returns that are greater than the broader market or a designated benchmark. Academic research indicates most active managers underperform the market.

#### Material Risks Involved

All investing strategies we offer involve risk and may result in a loss of your original investment which you should be prepared to bear. Many of these risks apply equally to stocks, bonds, commodities and any other investment or security. Material risks associated with our investment strategies are listed below.

**Market Risk:** Market risk involves the possibility that an investment's current market value will fall because of a general market decline, reducing the value of the investment regardless of the operational success of the issuer's operations or its financial condition.

Strategy Risk: The Adviser's investment strategies and/or investment techniques may not work as intended.

**Small and Medium Cap Company Risk:** Securities of companies with small and medium market capitalizations are often more volatile and less liquid than investments in larger companies. Small and medium cap companies may face a greater risk of business failure, which could increase the volatility of the client's portfolio.

**Turnover Risk:** At times, the strategy may have a portfolio turnover rate that is higher than other strategies. A high portfolio turnover would result in correspondingly greater brokerage commission expenses and may result in the distribution of additional capital gains for tax purposes. These factors may negatively affect the account's performance.

**Limited markets:** Certain securities may be less liquid (harder to sell or buy) and their prices may at times be more volatile than at other times. Under certain market conditions we may be unable to sell or liquidate investments at prices we consider reasonable or favorable or find buyers at any price.

**Concentration Risk:** Certain investment strategies focus on particular asset-classes, industries, sectors or types of investment. From time to time these strategies may be subject to greater risks of adverse developments in such areas of focus than a strategy that is more broadly diversified across a wider variety of investments.

**Interest Rate Risk:** Bond (fixed income) prices generally fall when interest rates rise, and the value may fall below par value or the principal investment. The opposite is also generally true: bond prices generally rise when interest rates fall. In general, fixed income securities with longer maturities are more sensitive to these price changes. Most other investments are also sensitive to the level and direction of interest rates.

**Legal or Legislative Risk**: Legislative changes or Court rulings may impact the value of investments, or the securities' claim on the issuer's assets and finances.

**Inflation**: Inflation may erode the buying power of your investment portfolio, even if the dollar value of your investments remains the same.

#### **Risks Associated with Securities**

Apart from the general risks outlined above which apply to all types of investments, specific securities may have other risks.

**Commercial Paper** is, in most cases, an unsecured promissory note that is issued with a maturity of 270 days or less. Being unsecured the risk to the investor is that the issuer may default.

**Common stocks** may go up and down in price quite dramatically, and in the event of an issuer's bankruptcy or restructuring could lose all value. A slower-growth or recessionary economic environment could have an adverse effect on the price of all stocks.

Corporate Bonds are debt securities to borrow money. Generally, issuers pay investors periodic interest and repay the amount borrowed either periodically during the life of the security and/or at maturity. Alternatively, investors can purchase other debt securities, such as zero coupon bonds, which do not pay current interest, but rather are priced at a discount from their face values and their values accrete over time to face value at maturity. The market prices of debt securities fluctuate depending on such factors as interest rates, credit quality, and maturity. In general, market prices of debt securities decline when interest rates rise and increase when interest rates fall. The longer the time to a bond's maturity, the greater its interest rate risk.

**Digital Assets** includes virtual currencies, crypto-currencies, and digital coins and tokens. The investment characteristics of Digital Assets generally differ from those of traditional currencies, commodities or securities. Importantly, Digital Assets are not backed by a central bank or a national, supra-national or quasi-national organization, any hard assets, human capital, or other form of credit. Rather, Digital Assets are market-based: a Digital Asset's value is determined by (and fluctuates often, according to) supply and demand factors, the number of merchants that accept it, and/or the value that various market participants place on it through their mutual agreement, barter or transactions. The risks involved in digital assets include market risk, limited markets, and legal or legislative risk.

**Bank Obligations** including bonds and certificates of deposit may be vulnerable to setbacks or panics in the banking industry. Banks and other financial institutions are greatly affected by interest rates and may be adversely affected by downturns in the U.S. and foreign economies or changes in banking regulations.

Municipal Bonds are debt obligations generally issued to obtain funds for various public purposes, including the construction of public facilities. Municipal bonds pay a lower rate of return than most other types of bonds. However, because of a municipal bond's tax-favored status, investors should compare the relative after-tax return to the after-tax return of other bonds, depending on the investor's tax bracket. Investing in municipal bonds carries the same general risks as investing in bonds in general. Those risks include interest rate risk, reinvestment risk, inflation risk, market risk, call or redemption risk, credit risk, and liquidity and valuation risk.

**Options and other derivatives** carry many unique risks, including time-sensitivity, and can result in the complete loss of principal. While covered call writing does provide a partial hedge to the stock against which the call is written, the hedge is limited to the amount of cash flow received when writing the option. When selling covered calls, there is a risk the underlying position may be called away at a price lower than the current market price.

Exchange Traded Funds prices may vary significantly from the Net Asset Value due to market conditions. Certain Exchange Traded Funds may not track underlying benchmarks as expected. ETFs are also subject to the following risks: (i) an ETF's shares may trade at a market price that is above or below their net asset value; (ii) the ETF may employ an investment strategy that utilizes high leverage ratios; or (iii) trading of an ETF's shares may be halted if the listing exchange's officials deem such action appropriate, the shares are de-listed from the exchange, or the activation of market-wide "circuit breakers" (which are tied to large decreases in stock prices) halts stock trading generally. The Adviser has no control over the risks taken by the underlying funds in which client's invest.

**Investment Companies Risk**. When a client invests in open-end mutual funds or ETFs, the client indirectly bears its proportionate share of any fees and expenses payable directly by those funds. Therefore, the client will incur higher expenses, many of which may be duplicative. In addition, the client's overall portfolio may be affected by losses of an underlying fund and the level of risk arising from the investment practices of an underlying fund (such as the use of derivatives).

# Item 9: Disciplinary Information

#### **Criminal or Civil Actions**

MFP and its management have not been involved in any criminal or civil action.

#### **Administrative Enforcement Proceedings**

MFP and its management have not been involved in administrative enforcement proceedings.

#### **Self-Regulatory Organization Enforcement Proceedings**

MFP and its management have not been involved in legal or disciplinary events that are material to a client's or prospective client's evaluation of MFP or the integrity of its management.

# Item 10: Other Financial Industry Activities and Affiliations

No MFP employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a broker-dealer or a registered representative of a broker-dealer.

No MFP employee is registered, or has an application pending to register, as a futures commission merchant, commodity pool operator or a commodity trading advisor.

MFP does not have any related parties. As a result, we do not have a relationship with any related parties.

MFP only receives compensation directly from clients. We do not receive compensation from any outside source. We do not have any conflicts of interest with any outside party.

Matthew Riggins is currently a licensed insurance agent, however, he no longer sells any insurance products, and is not affiliated with any insurance companies. Matthew Riggins will not sell any insurance products to clients or prospective clients of MFP.

#### **Recommendations or Selections of Other Investment Advisers**

As referenced in Item 4 of this brochure, MFP recommends Clients to Outside Managers to manage their accounts. In the event that we recommend an Outside Manager, please note that we do not share in their advisory fee. Our fee is separate and in addition to their compensation (as noted in Item 5) and will be described to you prior to engagement.

You are not obligated, contractually or otherwise, to use the services of any Outside Manager we recommend. Additionally, MFP will only recommend an Outside Manager who is properly licensed or registered as an investment adviser.

# Item 11: Code of Ethics, Participation or Interest in Client Transactions and Personal Trading

As a fiduciary, our firm and its associates have a duty of utmost good faith to act solely in the best interests of each client. Our clients entrust us with their funds and personal information, which in turn places a high standard on our conduct and integrity. Our fiduciary duty is a core aspect of our Code of Ethics and represents the expected basis of all of our dealings. The firm also adheres to the Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility adopted by the CFP® Board of Standards Inc., and accepts the obligation not only to comply with the mandates and requirements of all applicable laws and regulations but also to take responsibility to act in an ethical and professionally responsible manner in all professional services and activities.

#### **Code of Ethics Description**

This code does not attempt to identify all possible conflicts of interest, and literal compliance with each of its specific provisions will not shield associated persons from liability for personal trading or other conduct that violates a fiduciary duty to advisory clients. A summary of the Code of Ethics' Principles is outlined below.

- Integrity Associated persons shall offer and provide professional services with integrity.
- Objectivity Associated persons shall be objective in providing professional services to clients.
- Competence Associated persons shall provide services to clients competently and maintain the necessary knowledge and skill to continue to do so in those areas in which they are engaged.
- Fairness Associated persons shall perform professional services in a manner that is fair and reasonable
  to clients, principals, partners, and employers, and shall disclose conflict(s) of interest in providing such
  services.
- Confidentiality Associated persons shall not disclose confidential client information without the specific consent of the client unless in response to proper legal process, or as required by law.
- Professionalism Associated persons' conduct in all matters shall reflect the credit of the profession.

Diligence - Associated persons shall act diligently in providing professional services.

We periodically review and amend our Code of Ethics to ensure that it remains current, and we require all firm access persons to attest to their understanding of and adherence to the Code of Ethics at least annually. Our firm will provide a copy of its Code of Ethics to any client or prospective client upon request.

#### Investment Recommendations Involving a Material Financial Interest and Conflicts of Interest

Neither our firm, its associates or any related person is authorized to recommend to a client or effect a transaction for a client, involving any security in which our firm or a related person has a material financial interest, such as in the capacity as an underwriter, adviser to the issuer, etc.

#### Advisory Firm Purchase of Same Securities Recommended to Clients and Conflicts of Interest

Our firm and its "related persons" may buy or sell securities similar to, or different from, those we recommend to clients for their accounts. In an effort to reduce or eliminate certain conflicts of interest involving the firm or personal trading, our policy may require that we restrict or prohibit associates' transactions in specific reportable securities transactions. Any exceptions or trading pre-clearance must be approved by the firm principal in advance of the transaction in an account, and we maintain the required personal securities transaction records per regulation.

#### Trading Securities At/Around the Same Time as Client's Securities

From time to time, our firm or its "related persons" may buy or sell securities for themselves at or around the same time as clients. We will not trade non-mutual fund securities 5 days prior to the same security for clients.

## Item 12: Brokerage Practices

#### Factors Used to Select Custodians and/or Broker-Dealers

Mash Financial Planning, PLLC does not have any affiliation with Broker-Dealers. Specific custodian recommendations are made to the client based on their need for such services. We recommend custodians based on the reputation and services provided by the firm.

#### 1. Research and Other Soft-Dollar Benefits

We currently do not receive soft dollar benefits.

#### 2. Brokerage for Client Referrals

We receive no referrals from a broker-dealer or third party in exchange for using that broker-dealer or third party.

#### 3. Clients Directing Which Broker/Dealer/Custodian to Use

We do recommend a specific custodian for clients to use, however, clients may custody their assets at a custodian of their choice. Clients may also direct us to use a specific broker-dealer to execute transactions. By allowing clients to choose a specific custodian, we may be unable to achieve most favorable execution of client transactions and this may cost clients money over using a lower-cost custodian.

#### The Custodian and Brokers We Use (TD Ameritrade)

Advisor participates in the TD Ameritrade Institutional program. TD Ameritrade Institutional is a division of TD Ameritrade, Inc. ("TD Ameritrade"), member FINRA/SIPC. TD Ameritrade is an independent [and unaffiliated] SEC-registered broker-dealer. TD Ameritrade offers to independent investment Advisors services which include custody of securities, trade execution, clearance, and settlement of transactions. Advisor receives some benefits from TD Ameritrade through its participation in the program. (Please see the disclosure under Item 14 below.)

#### The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Altruist)

For the benefit of no commissions or transaction fees, fully digital account opening, a large variety of security options and complete integration with software tools to produce better client outcomes, MFP recommends Altruist Financial LLC, an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker dealer and FINRA/SIPC member, as the introducing broker to DriveWealth, LLC, an unaffiliated SEC-registered broker dealer and FINRA/SIPC member, as the clients' custodian. MFP does not receive any research or other soft-dollar benefit by nature from its relationship with Altruist Financial LLC, nor does MFP receive any referrals in exchange for using Altruist Financial LLC as a broker dealer.

#### The Custodian and Brokers We Use (Betterment)

Betterment Securities serves as broker-dealer to Betterment For Advisors, an investment and advice platform serving independent investment advisory firms like us ("Betterment For Advisors"). Betterment For Advisors also makes available various support services which may not be available to Betterment's retail customers. Some of those services help us manage or administer our Clients' accounts, while others help us manage and grow our business. Betterment For Advisors' support services are generally available on an unsolicited basis (we don't have to request them) and at no charge to us. Following is a more detailed description of Betterment For Advisors' support services:

- 1. SERVICES THAT BENEFIT YOU. Betterment For Advisors includes access to a range of investment products, execution of securities transactions, and custody of Client assets through Betterment Securities. Betterment Securities' services described in this paragraph generally benefit you and your account.
- 2. SERVICES THAT MAY NOT DIRECTLY BENEFIT YOU. Betterment For Advisors also makes available to us other products and services that benefit us, but may not directly benefit you or your account. These products and services assist us in managing and administering our Clients' accounts, such as software and technology that may:
  - a. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting of our Clients' accounts.
  - b. Provide access to Client account data (such as duplicate trade confirmations and account statements).
  - c. Provide pricing and other market data.
  - d. Assist with back-office functions, recordkeeping, and Client reporting.
- 3. SERVICES THAT GENERALLY BENEFIT ONLY US. By using Betterment For Advisors, we will be offered other services intended to help us manage and further develop our business enterprise. These services include:
  - a. Educational conferences and events.

- b. Consulting on technology, compliance, legal, and business needs.
- c. Publications and conferences on practice management and business succession.
- 4. YOUR BROKERAGE AND CUSTODY COSTS. For our Clients' accounts that Betterment Securities maintains, Betterment Securities generally does not charge you separately for custody services but is compensated as part of the Betterment For Advisors (defined below) platform fee, which is a percentage of the dollar amount of assets in the account in lieu of commissions. We have determined that having Betterment Securities execute trades is consistent with our duty to seek "best execution" of your trades. Best execution means the most favorable terms for a transaction based on all relevant factors, including those listed above (see "Factors Used to Select Custodians").

The availability of these services from Betterment For Advisors benefits us because we do not have to produce or purchase them. In addition, we don't have to pay for Betterment Securities' services. These services may be contingent upon us committing a certain amount of business to Betterment Securities in assets in custody. We may have an incentive to recommend that you maintain your account with Betterment Securities, based on our interest in receiving Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit our business rather than based on your interest in receiving the best value in custody services and the most favorable execution of your transactions. This is a potential conflict of interest. We believe, however, that our selection of Betterment Securities as custodian and broker is in the best interests of our Clients. Our selection is primarily supported by the scope, quality, and price of Betterment Securities' services and not Betterment For Advisors and Betterment Securities' services that benefit only us.

#### Aggregating (Block) Trading for Multiple Client Accounts

Generally, we do not combine multiple orders for shares of the same securities purchased for advisory accounts we manage (this practice is commonly referred to as "block trading"). Investment advisers may elect to purchase or sell the same securities for several clients at approximately the same time when they believe such action may prove advantageous to clients. This process is referred to as aggregating orders, batch trading or block trading. We do not engage in block trading. It should be noted that implementing trades on a block or aggregate basis may be less expensive for client accounts; however, it is our trading policy to implement all client orders on an individual basis. Therefore, we do not aggregate or "block" client transactions. Considering our management style and the types of investments we hold in advisory client accounts, we do not believe clients are hindered in any way because we trade accounts individually. This is because we develop individualized investment strategies for clients and holdings will vary. Our strategies are primarily developed for the long-term and minor differences in price execution are not material to our overall investment strategy.

## Item 13: Review of Accounts

Client accounts with the Investment Management Service will be reviewed regularly on a quarterly basis by Matthew Riggins, Owner and CCO. The account is reviewed with regards to the client's investment policies and risk tolerance levels. Events that may trigger a special review would be unusual performance, addition or

deletions of client imposed restrictions, excessive draw-down, volatility in performance, or buy and sell decisions from the firm or per client's needs.

Clients will receive trade confirmations from the broker(s) for each transaction in their accounts as well as monthly or quarterly statements and annual tax reporting statements from their custodian showing all activity in the accounts, such as receipt of dividends and interest.

MFP will provide written reports to Investment Management clients on a quarterly basis. We urge clients to compare these reports against the account statements they receive from their custodian.

# Item 14: Client Referrals and Other Compensation

We do not receive any economic benefit, directly or indirectly, from any third party for advice rendered to our clients.

The Advisor may engage independent solicitors to provide client referrals. If a client is referred to us by a solicitor, this practice is disclosed to the client in writing by the solicitor and the Advisor pays the solicitor out of its own funds. The use of solicitors is strictly regulated under applicable federal and state law. The Advisor's policy is to fully comply with the requirements of Rule 206(4)-3, under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, as amended, and similar state rules, as applicable. If we do so, you will receive a separate Solicitor's Disclosure Document describing our solicitation arrangements with that entity or individual, how the Solicitor is compensated, and the terms of that relationship. You will also receive a copy of this brochure.

As disclosed under Item 12, above, Advisor participates in TD Ameritrade's institutional customer program and Advisor may recommend TD Ameritrade to Clients for custody and brokerage services. There is no direct link between Advisor's participation in the program and the investment advice it gives to its Clients, although Advisor receives economic benefits through its participation in the program that are typically not available to TD Ameritrade retail investors. These benefits include the following products and services (provided without cost or at a discount): receipt of duplicate Client statements and confirmations; research related products and tools; consulting services; access to a trading desk serving Advisor participants; access to block trading (which provides the ability to aggregate securities transactions for execution and then allocate the appropriate shares to Client accounts); the ability to have advisory fees deducted directly from Client accounts; access to an electronic communications network for Client order entry and account information; access to mutual funds with no transaction fees and to certain institutional money managers; and discounts on compliance, marketing, research, technology, and practice management products or services provided to Advisor by third party vendors. TD Ameritrade may also have paid for business consulting and professional services received by Advisor's related persons. Some of the products and services made available by TD Ameritrade through the program may benefit Advisor but may not benefit its Client accounts. These products or services may assist Advisor in managing and administering Client accounts, including accounts not maintained at TD Ameritrade. Other services made available by TD Ameritrade are intended to help Advisor manage and further develop its business enterprise.

The benefits received by Advisor or its personnel through participation in the program do not depend on the amount of brokerage transactions directed to TD Ameritrade. As part of its fiduciary duties to clients, Advisor endeavors at all times to put the interests of its clients first.

Clients should be aware, however, that the receipt of economic benefits by Advisor or its related persons in and of itself creates a potential conflict of interest and may indirectly influence the Advisor's choice of TD Ameritrade for custody and brokerage services.

## Item 15: Custody

MFP does not accept custody of client funds except in the instance of withdrawing client fees.

For client accounts in which MFP directly debits their advisory fee:

- i. MFP will send a copy of its invoice to the custodian at the same time that it sends the client a copy.
- ii. The custodian will send at least quarterly statements to the client showing all disbursements for the account, including the amount of the advisory fee.
- iii. The client will provide written authorization to MFP, permitting them to be paid directly for their accounts held by the custodian.

Clients should receive at least quarterly statements from the broker-dealer, bank or other qualified custodian that holds and maintains the client's investment assets. We urge you to carefully review such statements and compare such official custodial records to the account statements or reports that we may provide to you. Our statements or reports may vary from custodial statements based on accounting procedures, reporting dates, or valuation methodologies of certain securities.

## Item 16: Investment Discretion

For those client accounts where we provide Investment Advisory Services, we maintain discretion over client accounts with respect to securities to be bought and sold and the amount of securities to be bought and sold. Investment discretion is explained to clients in detail when an advisory relationship has commenced. At the start of the advisory relationship, the client will execute a Limited Power of Attorney, which will grant our firm discretion over the account. Additionally, the discretionary relationship will be outlined in the advisory contract and signed by the client.

Clients are able to specify, within reason, any limitations they would like to place on discretionary authority as it pertains to individual securities and/or sectors that will be traded in their account, by notating these items on the executed advisory agreement.

## Item 17: Voting Client Securities

MFP does not vote Client proxies. Therefore, Clients maintain exclusive responsibility for: (1) voting proxies, and (2) acting on corporate actions pertaining to the Client's investment assets. The Client shall instruct the Client's qualified custodian to forward to the Client copies of all proxies and shareholder communications relating to the Client's investment assets. If the client would like our opinion on a particular proxy vote, they may contact us at the number listed on the cover of this brochure.

In most cases, you will receive proxy materials directly from the account custodian. However, in the event we were to receive any written or electronic proxy materials, we would forward them directly to you by mail, unless you have authorized our firm to contact you by electronic mail, in which case, we would forward you any electronic solicitation to vote proxies.

## Item 18: Financial Information

Registered Investment Advisers are required in this Item to provide you with certain financial information or disclosures about our financial condition. We have no financial commitment that impairs our ability to meet contractual and fiduciary commitments to clients, and we have not been the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding.

We do not have custody of client funds or securities or require or solicit prepayment of more than \$500 in fees per client six months in advance.

# Item 19: Requirements for State-Registered Advisers

### **Matthew Riggins**

Born: 1987

### **Educational Background**

- 2015 BCFS Family Financial Planning, University of Georgia
- 2014 B.A. Sociology, University of Georgia

#### **Business Experience**

- 01/2019 Present, Mash Financial Planning, PLLC, Owner and CCO
- 01/2023 Present Mash Tax & Accounting PLLC, Owner and Tax Preparer
- 02/2019 11/2022, Roy Miller and Associates, Tax Preparer
- 07/2017 11/2022, Riggins & Forsyth Properties, Partner
- 02/2015 10/2018, Merit Financial Advisors, Financial Advisor

- 06/2014 08/2014, United Capital, Client Services Manager
- 04/2013 04/2014, First Citizens Securities, Sales Associate

### Professional Designations, Licensing & Exams

CFP (Certified Financial Planner)®: The CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™, CFP® and federally registered CFP (with flame design) marks (collectively, the "CFP® marks") are professional certification marks granted in the United States by Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc. ("CFP Board").

The CFP® certification is a voluntary certification; no federal or state law or regulation requires financial planners to hold CFP® certification. It is recognized in the United States and a number of other countries for its (1) high standard of professional education; (2) stringent code of conduct and standards of practice; and (3) ethical requirements that govern professional engagements with clients. Currently, more than 71,000 individuals have obtained CFP® certification in the United States.

To attain the right to use the CFP® marks, an individual must satisfactorily fulfill the following requirements:

- Education Complete an advanced college-level course of study addressing the financial planning subject
  areas that CFP Board's studies have determined as necessary for the competent and professional delivery of
  financial planning services, and attain a Bachelor's Degree from a regionally accredited United States college
  or university (or its equivalent from a foreign university). CFP Board's financial planning subject areas include
  insurance planning and risk management, employee benefits planning, investment planning, income tax
  planning, retirement planning, and estate planning;
- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
- Experience Complete at least three years of full-time financial planning-related experience (or the equivalent, measured as 2,000 hours per year); and
- Ethics Agree to be bound by CFP Board's *Standards of Professional Conduct*, a set of documents outlining the ethical and practice standards for CFP® professionals.

Individuals who become certified must complete the following ongoing education and ethics requirements in order to maintain the right to continue to use the CFP® marks:

- Continuing Education Complete 30 hours of continuing education hours every two years, including two hours on the *Code of Ethics* and other parts of the Standards of Professional Conduct, to maintain competence and keep up with developments in the financial planning field; and
- Ethics Renew an agreement to be bound by the *Standards of Professional Conduct*.

  The *Standards* prominently require that CFP® professionals provide financial planning services at a fiduciary standard of care. This means CFP® professionals must provide financial planning services in the best interests of their clients.

CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

#### **Other Business Activities**

Matthew Riggins is currently employed as a tax preparer with Mash Tax & Accounting PLLC. This activity accounts for approximately 40 hours of his time monthly.

#### Performance-Based Fees

MFP is not compensated by performance-based fees.

### **Material Disciplinary Disclosures**

No management person at Mash Financial Planning, PLLC has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

#### Material Relationships That Management Persons Have With Issuers of Securities

Mash Financial Planning, PLLC, nor Matthew Riggins, have any relationship or arrangement with issuers of securities.

#### **Additional Compensation**

Matthew Riggins does not receive any economic benefit from any person, company, or organization, in exchange for providing clients advisory services through MFP.

### **Supervision**

Matthew Riggins, as Owner and Chief Compliance Officer of MFP, is responsible for supervision. He may be contacted at the phone number on this brochure supplement.

### **Requirements for State Registered Advisers**

Matthew Riggins has NOT been involved in an arbitration, civil proceeding, self-regulatory proceeding, administrative proceeding, or a bankruptcy petition.



## Mash Financial Planning, PLLC

8834 Goodby's Executive Drive, Suite 3 Jacksonville, Florida 32217 (904) 449-7600

Dated March 13, 2023

www.mashfinancialplanning.com

Form ADV Part 2B – Brochure Supplement

For

## **Matthew Riggins Individual CRD# 6365971**

Owner, and Chief Compliance Officer

This brochure supplement provides information about Matthew Riggins that supplements the Mash Financial Planning, PLLC ("MFP") brochure. A copy of that brochure precedes this supplement. Please contact Matthew Riggins if the MFP brochure is not included with this supplement or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Additional information about Matthew Riggins is available on the SEC's website at <a href="www.adviserinfo.sec.gov">www.adviserinfo.sec.gov</a> which can be found using the identification number Individual CRD# 6365971.

# Item 2: Educational Background and Business Experience

#### **Matthew Riggins**

Born: 1987

#### **Educational Background**

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#### **Business Experience**

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- Examination Pass the comprehensive CFP® Certification Examination. The examination includes case studies and client scenarios designed to test one's ability to correctly diagnose financial planning issues and apply one's knowledge of financial planning to real-world circumstances;
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CFP® professionals who fail to comply with the above standards and requirements may be subject to CFP Board's enforcement process, which could result in suspension or permanent revocation of their CFP® certification.

# Item 3: Disciplinary Information

No management person at Mash Financial Planning, PLLC has ever been involved in an arbitration claim of any kind or been found liable in a civil, self-regulatory organization, or administrative proceeding.

## Item 4: Other Business Activities

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# Item 5: Additional Compensation

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# Item 6: Supervision

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# Item 7: Requirements for State Registered Advisers

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