

## **Ohio Retirement Systems Ohio-Qualified Agent Certification**

### **General Information**

Under Ohio law, R. C. 145.114, 742.114, 3307.152, 3309.157, and 5505.068, each Ohio retirement system is required to:

1. Establish a policy with the goal to increase the use of Ohio-qualified agents for the execution of domestic equity and fixed income trades when an Ohio-qualified agent offers quality, services, and safety comparable to other agents otherwise available to the systems and meets certain criteria;
2. Adopt a policy to establish criteria and procedures used to select agents to execute securities transactions;
3. Designate an agent as an Ohio-qualified agent if the agent meets certain criteria; and,
4. Make certain reports to the Ohio Retirement Study Council concerning Ohio-qualified agents and minority business enterprises.

Each retirement system's policy may be viewed on its web site.

The statutory criteria for an Ohio-qualified agent are that the agent:

1. Is subject to taxation under R.C. Chapter 5725 (financial institutions and insurance), 5726 (financial institutions tax), 5733 (corporation franchise tax), 5747 (income tax), or 5751 (commercial activity tax);
2. Is authorized to conduct business in Ohio;
3. Maintains a principal place of business in Ohio and employs at least five Ohio residents; and,
4. Is a licensed dealer under Ohio securities laws or comparable laws of another state or the U.S.

"Principal place of business" means an office in which the agent regularly provides securities or investment advisory services and solicits, meets with, or otherwise communicates with clients.

"Dealer" means every person, other than a salesperson, who engages or professes to engage, in Ohio, for either all or part of the person's time, directly or indirectly, either in the business of the sale of securities for the person's own account, or in the business of the purchase or sale of securities for the account of others in the reasonable expectation of receiving a commission, fee, or other remuneration as a result of engaging in the purchase and sale of securities. "Dealer" does not mean any of the following:

- (a) Any issuer, including any officer, director, employee, or trustee of, or member or manager of, or partner in, or any general partner of, any issuer, that sells, offers for sale, or does any act in furtherance of the sale of a security that represents an

economic interest in that issuer, provided no commission, fee, or other similar remuneration is paid to or received by the issuer for the sale;

(b) Any licensed attorney, public accountant, or firm of such attorneys or accountants, whose activities are incidental to the practice of the attorney's, accountant's, or firm's profession;

(c) Any person that, for the account of others, engages in the purchase or sale of securities that are issued and outstanding before such purchase and sale, if a majority or more of the equity interest of an issuer is sold in that transaction, and if, in the case of a corporation, the securities sold in that transaction represent a majority or more of the voting power of the corporation in the election of directors;

(d) Any person that brings an issuer together with a potential investor and whose compensation is not directly or indirectly based on the sale of any securities by the issuer to the investor;

(e) Any bank;

(f) Any person that the division of securities by rule exempts as a dealer. Ohio securities licensing laws may be found in R.C. Sections 1701.01 through 1701.45.

A minority business enterprise is defined under Ohio law as an individual who:

1. Is a United States citizen
2. Owns and controls a business, a partnership, corporation, or joint venture of any kind that is owned and controlled by United States citizens, who:
  - a. Are residents of Ohio, and
  - b. Are members of one of the following economically disadvantaged groups: Blacks or African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics or Latinos, and Asians.

"Owned and controlled" means that at least fifty-one per cent of the business, including corporate stock if a corporation, is owned by persons who belong to one or more of the groups listed above. These owners must have control over the management and day-to-day operations of the business and an interest in the capital, assets, and profits and losses of the business proportionate to their percentage of ownership. In addition, the business must have been owned and controlled by those persons at least one year prior to being awarded a contract.

You may obtain additional and/or current copies of this form, lists of Ohio-qualified agents and minority business enterprises, and information on use of agents by contacting each system or viewing its web site.

In order to comply with Ohio law, the retirement system requests that your firm submit this certification.

**Instructions** (This form may be duplicated)

1. Complete, sign and return an original of this form to the:

**Ohio Public Employees Retirement System of Ohio (OPERS)**  
**Attn: Prabu Kumaran, Fund Manager**  
**277 East Town Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-4642**  
[opersbrc@opers.org](mailto:opersbrc@opers.org)

Returning this form to OPERS will serve as filing for all five state retirement systems. The other retirement systems are:

**School Employees Retirement System, [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org)**

**State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio, [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org)**

**Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, [www.op-f.org](http://www.op-f.org)**

**Ohio State Highway Patrol Retirement System, [www.ohprs.org](http://www.ohprs.org).**

2. A new, completed form must be submitted by June 30th each year, or when information on a previously filed form changes.

**OQA & OQA-MBE Self Certification for the reporting period from July 01, 2023 through June 30, 2024**

**I. Firm Information**

Firm legal name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State and Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact person's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Agent Information**

I certify that the firm is (mark each that applies):

- An Ohio-qualified agent because all of the following conditions are met:
- Subject to taxation under R.C. Chapter 5725 (financial institutions and insurance companies), 5726 (financial institutions tax), 5733 (corporation franchise tax), 5747 (income tax), or 5751 (commercial activity tax);
  - Is authorized to conduct business in Ohio;
  - Maintains a principal place of business in Ohio and employs at least five Ohio residents; and,
  - Is a licensed dealer under Ohio securities laws or comparable laws of another state or the U.S.
- A minority business enterprise as defined by Ohio law and described on page 2.

**III. Signature**

I, the undersigned, state that:

1. I have read and completed the above Certification;
2. I am authorized to execute this Certification on behalf of the firm;
3. I certify the information provided in this Certification is complete and true to the best of my knowledge and belief;
4. I certify that if any information in this Certification changes, the firm will submit a new Certification;
5. I understand that completion and submission of this Certification does not obligate any Ohio retirement system to enter into any contract with the firm; and,
6. I understand that if any information provided on this form is false, any offer of a contract may be withdrawn, or any contract entered into may be terminated without any penalty to the retirement system.

By: Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_