

# **Internal Dispute Resolution Policy**

# Internal Dispute Resolution Policy

## Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	3		
2.	SUMMARY OF POLICY	4		
3.	IDR PROCEDURES	4		
	3.1. Receiving and dealing with complaints			
	3.2. Timeframes for dealing with complaints			
	3.3. Resolving complaints			
	3.4. Recording and monitoring complaints			
	3.5. Unresolved complaints			
	3.6. Compliance - Australian Standard AS 10002-2022			
	3.7. What you should do if you have a Complaint			
4. /	ADOPTION OF POLICY	7		
Annexure A - RECORDING COMPLAINTS, IDENTIFYING & RECORDING SYSTEMIC ISSUES				
An	nexure B - FORM FOR COMPLAINANT	9		
AN	INEXURE C - ACFA COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCESS	10		

## 1. Introduction

AFS licensees must have a dispute resolution system that consists of:

- an Internal Dispute Resolution (IDR) procedure that complies with the standards and requirements made or approved by ASIC (set out in this guide) that cover complaints made by retail clients in relation to the financial services provided; and
- membership of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA).

AFS licensees must also comply with their IDR procedure.

Assetora Australia Limited (Assetora) ABN 33 153 951 770 Australian Financial Service License No. 444365 (AFSL) is the Fund Manager of the Assetora Fund ARSN 167 020 626 (Fund).

The Trustee and the Issuer of Interests in the Fund is Melbourne Securities Corporation Ltd ABN 57 160 326 545, AFSL No. 428289 (MSC).

Assetora's internal dispute resolution procedures ("IDR Procedures") are based on but not equivalent to Australian Standard AS 10002:2022.

This policy describes the systems that Assetora has in place for managing and resolving complaints and disputes in relation to the financial services it provides.

#### **Definition of "Complaint"**

[An expression] of dissatisfaction made to or about an organization, related to its products, services, staff or the handling of a complaint, where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required.

#### Acknowledgement of "Complaint"

Assetora shall acknowledge the receipt of any complaint, which will be made within 24 hours (1 business day) or if not possible as soon as practicable. All complaints received shall be recorded.

In compliance with its obligations as a Financial Services provider, Assetora has prepared this policy, as ASIC requires that financial firms must have a dispute resolution system that consists of:

- an internal dispute resolution (IDR) process that meets the standards or requirements made or approved by ASIC; and
- membership of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA)

## 2. Summary of Policy

Assetora is committed to excellent customer service and the resolution of any concerns or complaints quickly, fairly and efficiently. To enhance customer satisfaction, we have created a customer-focused environment that is open to feedback (including complaints), resolving any complaints received, and enhancing Assetora's ability to improve its products and services, including customer service.

We welcome complaints as a positive means of reviewing and improving our products, systems and customer service. All complainants will be treated with respect, courtesy and consideration.

Our internal dispute resolution scheme is open to anyone who deals with us: customers, dealers, advisers, contractors or any other person.

All staff and representatives are expected to inform complainants about our IDR processes as soon as they become aware of a concern, to give high priority to resolving complaints quickly and to assist any complainant through the process.

## 3. Internal Dispute Resolution

### 3.1. Receiving and dealing with complaints

- Complaints may be made in writing to, or by phoning, the Complaints Officer at:
- Email: complaints@Assetora.com.au Phone: 1300 365 930
- The process for making complaints is outlined in this Internal Dispute Resolution Policy.

#### 3.2. Timeframes for dealing with complaints

- Assetora will endeavour to respond to all complaints within 24 hours (1 business day) by informing the complainant that their complaint has been received.
- Assetora will endeavour to resolve a complaint within a maximum of 21 days from the date it confirmed that it had received the complaint to the complainant, but a shorter period if possible.
- If Assetora cannot resolve a complaint within 21 days, Assetora will inform the complainant that they have been unable to resolve the dispute, and the complainant may wish to start mediation with an external mediator appointed by Assetora.

#### 3.3. Resolving complaints

- Assetora will endeavour to address all aspects of the complaint that can be resolved via remedies and will provide follow-up assistance where appropriate.
- Assetora will, where appropriate, offer remedies to complainants that are both non-financial as well as, or instead of, financial remedies. Such remedies may include but are not limited to:
- financial assistance (e.g. arranging for the Account holder to access additional services to the value of the agreed loss or damage);
- other assistance (e.g. where there has been unauthorised or mistaken transactions relating to the facility or loss or theft of the device (if any) through which the facility is used);
- compensation; or
- Where a financial remedy is considered appropriate in the circumstances, Assetora will seek to offer compensation that is fair.
- In determining the most appropriate remedy, Assetora will take into consideration any direct loss or damage suffered by the complainant as well as any relevant legal principles, relevant codes of conduct, fairness and relevant industry best practice.
- In dealing with a complaint, Assetora may, in appropriate circumstances, offer remedies to other parties who have suffered in the same way as the complainant, but did not make a formal complaint.
- Any material given to the complainant explaining IDR Procedures will be provided free of charge.
- Any complaint about a service will be handled by Assetora free of charge (subject to statutory requirements).

### 3.4. Recording and monitoring complaints

- When a complaint is first received, the Complaints Officer will enter all information concerning the complaint into the complaints register attached as Annexure A and Annexure B. Any additional correspondence from the complainant must also be recorded in the complaints register;
- The information contained in the complaints register will comply with the National Privacy Principles. Assetora will inform individuals of what sort of personal information is held and for what purposes, including the method of collection, storage, use, accuracy and disclosure of information;
- The Complaints Officer will be responsible for any trend analysis with respect to complaints. This may assist in identifying any systemic issues that may require remedial action;
- The Compliance Officer reviews annually the operation of the IDR Procedures, including the complaints register, the number of complaints received, the type of activity complained of and the length and outcome of dealing with complaints;

#### 3.5. Unresolved complaints

If Assetora cannot resolve a complaint within 21 days, Assetora will inform the complainant that they have been unable to resolve the dispute, and that the complainant may wish to start the mediation with the Trustee, MSC's email: <u>complaints@msc.group</u>

If your complaint is not resolved, it will be forwarded to and dealt with by the Trustee.

#### 3.6. Compliance with Australian Standard AS ISO 10002-2018

In accordance with Australian Standard AS ISO 10002-2018, Assetora subscribes to the following essential elements of effective complaints handling:

- Fairness Assetora's IDR Procedures recognises the need to be fair to both the complainant. Fairness rests on three qualities—impartiality, confidentiality and transparency. Assetora has therefore implemented a system whereby the complaint can be properly identified and investigated by staff not involved in the subject matter of the complaint, i.e. a Complaints Officer.
- Resources Assetora has adequate resources for complaints handling given the size of the business.
- Feasibility Assetora's IDR Procedures will be well publicised to representatives and clients. The disclosure document, which all clients will receive, will contain information about the process for making a complaint.
- Access Assetora's IDR Procedures are accessible to all representatives. Assetora's IDR Procedures are easy to understand and use and are drafted in plain language.
- Assistance Assetora will provide assistance to clients in relation to the formulation and lodgement of complaints.
- Responsiveness Assetora ensures that complaints will be dealt with quickly and the complainant shall be treated courteously.
- Charges Assetora does not charge any handling fee in relation to complaints made against it on an internal basis.
- Remedies Assetora's IDR Procedures have the capacity to determine and implement remedies.
- Data Collection Assetora has an appropriate systematic recording of complaints and outcomes as it maintains a complaints register.
- Systematic and Recurring Problems The Complaints Officer is responsible for any trend analysis with respect to complaints. In addition, the Compliance Manager reviews the complaints register annually.
- Accountability The Complaints Register is available for inspection by ASIC if required.
- Reviews Assetora's IDR Procedures are reviewed annually by the Compliance Manager to ensure that it is efficiently delivering effective outcomes.

#### 3.7. What you should do if you have a Complaint

If you have a complaint or dispute relating to the financial services provided to you by Assetora, you should contact Assetora in the first instance.

If the complaint or dispute is not satisfactorily resolved by Assetora, you should contact MSC immediately.

If the complaint or dispute is unable to be settled immediately to your satisfaction, your complaint or dispute will be acknowledged within 1 business day.

Assetora or MSC may request further details from you.

A final response will be provided within 21 days from acknowledging your complaint or dispute. If we are unable to resolve your complaint to your satisfaction after the 21 days, you may be eligible to escalate the complaint to the Australian Financial Conduct Authority (AFCA).

Both Assetora and MSC are members of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority. AFCA can be contacted by the following ways.

Website:	www.afca.org.au
Mail:	GPO Box 3, Melbourne VIC 3001
Phone:	1800 931 678

Note: AFCA will not consider complaints or disputes that have not first been brought forward to Assetora or MSC. (See Annexure C - AFCA complaint resolution process)

### 4. Adoption of Policy

This policy was adopted by the Board on 18th October 2022.

#### ANNEXURE A - RECORDING COMPLAINTS, IDENTIFYING & RECORDING SYSTEMIC ISSUES

We will record information in the following tabular form, this is held within our directory:

- Complaints\Internal Dispute Resolution

Assetora AUSTRALIA LIMITED - REGISTER OF COMPLAINTS FOR

- Staff or Representative's name
- Complaint number
- Date Client name
- Type of complaint (incl. value)
- Handled by whom
- Outcome
- Date of advice to MSC Trustee (if not resolved within 5 business days)

#### Documents you might need

Different information and documents will normally be required for different types of complaints, but the general categories of documents and information following will be most helpful:

Evidence/supporting documents: This is the information, reports, assessments, photos, receipts, correspondence, bank and other financial statements that provide background to your complaint and that are likely to be relevant to the issues you have raised.

It is also important not to write notes directly onto complaint documents as it can make it difficult to interpret your comments and it also changes the primary evidence.

Claim details: This is the remedy, including any sum of money, or other outcome that you are seeking to resolve your complaint. Any relevant calculations of a claim for financial loss or compensation should be provided. You should also include documents, or references to documents that help us understand how you calculated your claim.

Timeline/chronology of events: This should clearly explain what happened and when. The more complex the complaint, the more important it is to have this information. It also helps everyone to understand the order of events that have happened in relation to your complaint.

- Financial advice, stockbroking and managed investments
- Financial plans or Statements of Advice
- Prospectus or Product Disclosure Statements
- Fact find/Needs analysis
- Investment or account statements
- Service agreements

#### **ANNEXURE B**

### Form for complainant

The following is a sample form containing the principal information which can aid a complainant to provide the key details required by the organization to handle the complaint effectively and efficiently.

1	Details	of	com	alai	nant	

Name/organization	
Address	
Postcode, town	
Country	
Phone	
Fax	
Email	

Details of person acting on behalf of complainant (if applicable)

Details of person to be contacted (if different from above)

#### 2 Product description / service description

Reference number (if known or applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ Description



#### **3** Problem encountered

Date of occurrence \_\_\_\_\_\_ Description

4 Remedy requested

Yes 🗆 No 🗆

5 Date, signature

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

6 Enclosure List of enclosed documents

#### **ANNEXURE C**

### AFCA complaint resolution process

Complaint lodged with AFCA Automatic Assisted Registration and Referral Registration and Referral<sup>2</sup> is the complaint appropriate to automatically refer back to the financial firm for IDR / EDR? Has IDR been completed? NO We refer the complaint to the We refer the complaint We will contact the complainant to the financial firm. financial firm. They have a set to clarify the issue(s), discuss our timeframe to work directly with the They have 21 days process and identify the most shop to work directly with appropriate communication method. complainant to reach a resolution: up doys to 21 days (financial difficulty), up to 90 days (superannuation or traditional the complainant to reach a resolution. If We will also notify the financial firm to advise them of the process that 21-90 23 trustees) and up to 45 days for all other complaints. If the complaint the complaint is not will be followed. This may involve direct referral to case management, or referral back for a further resolved, the financial 0 0 is not resolved, the financial firm firm provides on EDR provides an IDR response to AFCA. response to AFCA. response in a reduced time Is the complaint within the AFCA Rules? We cannot proceed with the complaint Is it a low value, single Does the situation primarily involve financial difficulty? issue complaint? **Fast Track** Standard & Complex **Financial Difficulty** Initial contact within 3 days Initial contact within 7 days Initial contact within 3 days of allocation. of allocation. of allocation. This is a tailored process, and we will Early input by an adjudicator to Depending on the complexity of the work with the complainant and the confirm our approach and likely complaint, we ask for information to be provided within 7-21 days. financial firm to reach an agreement. outcome. We ask for information to be We also identify any extra information we need. We ask for We decide if the complaint could be resolved by negotiation or telephone provided within 7-14 days. Telephone conciliation is the most this information to be provided conciliation within 7 days. common resolution method for Once we have enough information, financial difficulty complaints. Fast Track complaints are mostly resolved by negatiation. Fast Track and if the matter has not been resolved, we will provide a If the complaint cannot be resolved by conciliation or negotiation, we will provide a preliminary assessment preliminary assessment over the phone or in writing. In most cases it complaints are not conciliated. Once we have enough information, over the phone. will be in writing. and if the matter has not been C 3-6 weeks resolved by negotiation, we will provide a preliminary assessment 4-8 weeks If either party rejects our preliminary over the phone or in writing. If either party rejects our preliminary assessment, the matter is referred to assessment, the matter is referred (1) 4 weeks an ombudsman for decision. to a panel or an ombudsman If the financial firm accepts our for decision. If either party rejects our preliminary assessment, the matter is referred preliminary assessment but the complainant does not respond, we to an adjudicator for decision. will also refer the complaint for decision. An adjudicator reviews the An ombudsman or panel reviews An ombudsman reviews the complaint and makes a decision and makes a decision the complaint and makes a decision () 2 weeks (1) 4 weeks ()4 weeks Most complaints will progress through the automatic Registration and Referral process.

<sup>a</sup> Some complaints may not be appropriate to automatically refer back to the financial firm because of the subject matter, urgency or the accessibility needs of the complainant. \* These are average expected timeframes