

Five tips to help when switching financial advisors

Advisory relationships can be very rewarding for both advisors and their client, but, it takes work on both sides to make it successful. If you are considering a change, here's a few tips so that you choose the best one for you:

1

Ask lots of questions up front to make sure you share common values and are on the same page.

2

Ask what all the ways in which an advisor can be paid. If you hear about multiple ways, you are likely talking to a dually registered advisor, not a fiduciary. Before you even reach out to an advisor, look at their webpage. If you see disclosure terminology that refers to "securities offered" or "insurance provided by", you are not dealing with a fiduciary.

3

20-30% of CFP's are fee-only fiduciaries. So, beware of designations. They may not be all that you think they are.

4

Understand the culture of the advisor and the firm. If the culture aligns with your values, the relationship will likely be easy, not difficult and annoying.

5

Check the SEC's website to see if any complaints have been filed against an advisor. And while you are there read the advisory firms Form ADV. If it seems like you are getting lost in the words, that might give you a clue that this firm may not be for you.