



Bison's Custodians

When it comes to managing your wealth, it's important to understand the distinct roles played by your wealth advisor and your custodian. While your advisor focuses on developing personalized investment strategies tailored to your goals, a custodian plays a vital role behind the scenes — safeguarding your assets, ensuring regulatory compliance, and maintaining the integrity of your investment accounts.

Bison Wealth has partnered with industry leading custodians such as Fidelity and Charles Schwab. Below is a summary of the key responsibilities of these custodians as it relates to your accounts at Bison Wealth:

Asset Security & Safekeeping

Custodians are entrusted with holding your assets — including cash, stocks, bonds, and other securities — in a secure, segregated environment. They are responsible for:



- ▶ Safeguarding your assets from theft, fraud, or misappropriation
- ▶ Maintaining SIPC protection and, often, additional private insurance for added peace of mind
- ▶ Ensuring assets are held in your name (or entity name), not commingled with other investors or firms

Account Maintenance & Administration

Custodians provide the operational infrastructure to keep your investment accounts running smoothly:



- ▶ Processing deposits, withdrawals, transfers, and trades at the direction of your advisor
- ▶ Providing real-time access to account balances and transaction history
- ▶ Issuing monthly statements, tax documents (1099s), and confirmations
- ▶ Supporting features such as check writing, cash management, margin, and retirement account services

Regulatory & Compliance Oversight

Custodians play a critical role in helping ensure your accounts remain in compliance with industry regulations:



- ▶ Adhering to SEC and FINRA custody rules and reporting requirements
- ▶ Maintaining audit-ready records and transparent reporting for you and your advisor
- ▶ Monitoring for suspicious activity, insider trading, or other irregularities
- ▶ Providing tools for advisors to act in a fiduciary capacity, with full transparency and accountability

Your Relationship with the Custodian

Although your advisor manages your investment strategy, your accounts are held directly in your name at the custodian. This creates a clear separation of duties and reinforces your protections as an investor. You'll receive direct communications from the custodian and maintain 24/7 access to your account via secure online portals.

In Summary:

Your custodian is a foundational part of your financial team — providing trust, transparency, and technical precision. Working with a reputable custodian such as Charles Schwab or Fidelity ensures that your wealth is securely held, expertly administered, and fully compliant with the highest regulatory standards.

For any questions about your custodian relationship, your advisor is here to help.

