

(925) 866-2882 • Fax (925) 866-8989 2440 Camino Ramon, Suite 103 P.O. Box 1307 San Ramon, CA 94583 www.americaninvestorsco.com

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When you want to buy or sell a stock, mutual fund or other security, two things are required: first, your instructions must be communicated to your advisor, and second, your advisor must actually receive your instructions and acknowledge their receipt. If you provide trading instructions by email or leave trading instructions on your advisor's voice mail system, the second requirement will not have been met until your advisor acknowledges that your instructions have been received and will be acted upon.

Accordingly, trading instructions communicated in either of the above-referenced manners may not be acted upon in a timely fashion. There may be delays and these delays may be substantial. This could be prejudicial to you if the price of the security changes before your advisor acknowledges receipt of your instructions and acts upon them.

If you wish to enter trading instructions and insure that they are acted upon in a timely fashion, do it the old-fashioned way – call your advisor on the phone and talk to him or her directly.

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