

Socially Responsible Investments

Implementing our Guidelines



Ascension

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Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines

Establish and proactively manage relationships with **investment managers** across **all offered asset classes** and refrain from investing in companies when that investment would entail implicitly condoning and/or directly contributing to activities that are understood within Catholic Church teaching to be morally wrong.

Avoid investments in companies whose policies and practices contribute to the violation of human rights, whose policies and practices are directed specifically to opposing the moral teachings of the Catholic Church, whose policies and practices are consistently found to be discriminatory, or whose working conditions are exploitive.

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Individual Security Restrictions. AIM will seek to **avoid any investment** in companies that:

- Earn 20% or more of total business revenues through the provision, production, sale and/or distribution of:
 - supporting the expansion of access to abortion, or that manufacture pharmaceutical agents whose sole purpose is use as an abortifacient
 - military, biological, or chemical weapons;
 - (includes related activities)
 - contraceptive agents or devices or sterilization procedures of men or women;
- Produce pornographic materials;
- Produce or distribute first strike nuclear weapons or indiscriminate weapons of mass destruction;
- Are consistently cited for violating environmental protection regulations; gambling or gaming-related activities.

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Corrective Action for Guideline Violations:

1. Discuss with the manager the possibility of selling the investment.
1. If an outright sale is not possible, pursue options to eliminate clients' exposure.
1. If no resolution, then an exposure to the violating investment will exist for a period of time until longer-term solutions are identified and pursued.

Shareholder Advocacy and Proxy Voting:

1. Client recognize the importance of exercising their shareholder rights to raise issues of social and ethical concern with those companies in which they hold stock.
1. Proxies will be voted in a manner consistent with Catholic social teaching and current standards of ethical practice.