

Hiring a Financial Professional: When, Who & How

When it comes to hiring a financial professional, trying to figure out who, where and when can be a daunting task.

Today, financial advisors can be found at your bank, online, franchisee-based national or independent financial advising companies, and even big box stores or through your insurance agent.

You will likely come across many professionals with the title Financial Advisor or Financial Planner because anyone can use those titles. There are many competent advisors that can both create a plan for you as well as offer advice on your investments.

There are also brokers, sometimes called money managers or stockbrokers, who can do an excellent job of investing your money, but they typically aren't trained to do comprehensive financial planning. They specialize in investment strategies.

My advice: hire a Certified Financial Planner® once every five to ten years. And don't wait until your 40; starting to plan in the beginning of your professional career can set you on the correct path for the rest of your financial life. As you grow wealthier and/or older, or develop a more complicated set of financial needs, you should consider weaving in the expense every one to five years.

Choosing a CFP to guide your financial life means you've chosen someone committed enough to their profession to earn the highest designation.



