Thinking about Cashing Out Your 401K Early? Before you do, make sure you are aware of the consequences. If you cash out before you are 59 1/2 and do not roll the proceeds into an IRA or another employer's plan within 60 days,

- You may have to pay federal income tax on the entire amount;
- Your current employer is required to withhold 20% of your account balance to prepay the federal taxes;
- You may owe state and local tax on your distribution;
- You may also be subject to a 10% early withdrawal penalty tax by the IRS.
- **For more information, go to:** What You Should Know About Your Retirement Plan at **www.dol.gov/ebsa/publications/wyskapr.html** (U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration)

Considering Asking for Help from a Financial Services Professional? Check first. A financial professional may be the one to help you get through this financial crisis. However, it is critical that you check out your investment adviser or broker salesperson before you entrust them with your money. Getting information about a financial services professional is easy. You can call the Massachusetts Securities Division at 617-727-3548 and they can check an individual or company's complaint history, employment history and proper registration with the State. Also, be sure to ask how your financial services professional gets paid. Do they receive compensation via a flat fee, commissions on transactions, or some other method? Do they receive their compensation on the front end or the back end? Don't rush into signing anything, and consider asking a trusted friend or objective family member to help review your decision.

For more information contact:

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Secretary of the Commonwealth
Securities Division
One Ashburton Place, Room 1701
Boston, MA 02108
1-800-269-5428
www.sec.state.ma.us/sct

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Financial Crisis

Investor Tips for a Down Market

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Secretary of the Commonwealth
Securities Division

Do You Know Which of Your Accounts Are Insured?

What's Insured	By Whom	Protection Limits	What's NOT Insured	More Information
Bank Accounts All deposit accounts at insured banks and savings associations, including checking, NOW, and savings accounts, money market deposit accounts and certificates of deposit (CDs) up to the insurance limit.	**FDIC** The FDIC (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation) is an independent agency of the United States government that protects you against the loss of your deposits if an FDIC-insured bank or savings association fails. FDIC insurance is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government.	$250,000 per bank or savings association (unless the account(s) meet certain requirements), and up to $250,000 for certain retirement accounts. (The per bank or savings association coverage amount is scheduled to drop back to $100,000 per account as of 1/1/2010).	• Investments in mutual funds (stock, bond or money market mutual funds), whether purchased from a bank, brokerage or dealer. • Annuities (underwritten by insurance companies, but sold at some banks) • Stocks, bonds, Treasury securities or other investment products, whether purchased through a bank or a broker-dealer.	**FDIC Frequently Asked Questions** www.fdic.gov/help/faq.html Phone: 877-275-3342
Brokerage Accounts The cash and securities, such as stocks and bonds, held by a customer at a financially troubled brokerage firm that is a member of SIPC. SIPC can help when assets are stolen by a broker or put at risk when a brokerage fails for other reasons.	**SIPC** The SIPC (Securities Investor Protection Corporation). Though created by Congress through the Securities Investor Protection Act, SIPC is neither a government agency nor a regulatory authority. It is a nonprofit, membership corporation, funded by its member securities broker-dealers.	Securities in your account at a SIPC member brokerage, up to $500,000, including a maximum of $100,000 for cash claims.	• Losses due to market fluctuation, poor investment decisions or lost investment opportunities; • Investments in commodity futures, fixed annuities, currency, hedge funds or investment contracts (such as limited partnerships) that are not registered with the SEC; and • Accounts of partners, directors, officers or anyone with a significant beneficial ownership in the failed firm.	**How SIPC Protects Investors** www.sipc.org/how/sipcprotects.cfm Phone: 202-371-8300
Money Market **Mutual Funds**	Not Insured.	Not Applicable.	Not Applicable.	**Invest Wisely: An Introduction to Mutual Funds** www.sec.gov/investor/pubs/inwsmf.htm Phone: 800-732-0330