

**PLEASE READ THE INFORMATION BELOW CAREFULLY: IT WILL IMPACT HOW LEGAL CLAIMS YOU AND WE HAVE AGAINST EACH OTHER ARE RESOLVED IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT CREDIT UNIONS ARE OWNED BY THEIR MEMBERS.**

## **Binding Arbitration of Claims and Disputes Agreement and Class Action Waiver**

RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES BY ARBITRATION: THIS SECTION CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR ACCOUNTS AND ALL RELATED SERVICES. IT PROVIDES THAT EITHER YOU OR WE CAN REQUIRE THAT ANY DISPUTES BE RESOLVED BY BINDING ARBITRATION. ARBITRATION REPLACES THE RIGHT TO GO TO COURT, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL AND THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN A CLASS ACTION OR SIMILAR PROCEEDING. IN ARBITRATION, THE DISPUTE IS SUBMITTED TO A NEUTRAL PARTY, AN ARBITRATOR, INSTEAD OF A JUDGE OR JURY. ARBITRATION PROCEDURES MAY BE MORE LIMITED THAN RULES APPLICABLE IN COURT.

### **Agreement to Arbitrate Disputes.**

Either you or we may elect, without the other's consent, to require that any and all disputes between us arising out of, affecting, or relating in any way to your accounts or the products or services related to your accounts or any aspect of your relationship with us be resolved through binding arbitration, except for those disputes specifically excluded below.

### **No Class Action or Joinder of Parties.**

YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU AND WE AGREE THAT NO CLASS ACTION, CLASS-WIDE ARBITRATION, PRIVATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTION, OR OTHER PROCEEDING WHERE SOMEONE ACTS IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY, MAY BE PURSUED IN ANY ARBITRATION OR IN ANY COURT PROCEEDING, REGARDLESS OF WHEN THE CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION AROSE OR ACCRUED, OR WHEN THE ALLEGATIONS OR FACTS UNDERLYING THE CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION OCCURRED. Unless mutually agreed to by you and us, claims of two or more persons may not be joined, consolidated, or otherwise brought together in the same arbitration (unless those persons are joint account holders or beneficiaries on your account and/or related accounts, or parties to a single transaction or related transaction), whether or not the claim may have been assigned.

### **Disputes Covered by Arbitration.**

YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN ARBITRATION, THERE WILL BE NO RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL. Unless otherwise provided herein, any claim or dispute relating to or arising out of your accounts or the services related to your accounts or our relationship will be subject to arbitration, regardless of whether that dispute or the facts underlying or giving rise to that dispute arose before or after your receipt of this notice. Disputes include claims made as part of a class action, private attorney general, or other representative action, it being expressly understood and agreed to that the arbitration of such claims must proceed on an individual (non-class, non-representative) basis, and the arbitrator may award relief only on an individual (non-class, non-representative) basis. Disputes also include claims relating to this arbitration agreement's enforceability, validity, scope, or interpretation. Any questions about whether disputes are subject to arbitration shall be resolved by interpreting this arbitration agreement in the broadest way the law will allow it to be enforced.

All disputes are subject to arbitration, no matter what legal theory they are based on or what remedy (damages, or injunctive or declaratory relief) they seek. Disputes include any unresolved claims concerning any services relating to your accounts. Disputes include not only claims made directly by you, but also made by anyone connected with you or claiming through you, such as a joint account holder, account beneficiary, employee, representative, agent, predecessor or successor, heir, assignee, or trustee in bankruptcy. Disputes include not only claims that relate directly to the Credit Union, but also its parent, affiliates, successors, assignees, employees, and agents, and claims for which we may be directly or indirectly liable, even if we are not correctly named at the time the claim is made. Disputes include claims based on any theory of law, contract, statute, regulation, tort (including fraud or any intentional tort), or any other legal or equitable grounds and include claims asserted as counterclaims, crossclaims, third-party claims, interpleaders, or otherwise; and claims made independently or with other claims. If a party initiates a proceeding in court regarding a claim or dispute that is included under this arbitration agreement, the other party may elect to proceed in arbitration pursuant to this arbitration agreement.

### **Disputes Excluded from Arbitration.**

Disputes filed by you or by us individually in a small claims court are not subject to arbitration so long as the disputes remain in such court and advance only an individual (non-class, non-representative) claim for relief. However, if a matter in small claims court is removed, transferred, or appealed to a non-small claims court, that claim shall be subject to this arbitration agreement.

Claims or disputes arising from your status as a borrower under any loan agreement with the Credit Union are also excluded from this particular arbitration agreement but shall remain subject to any other applicable arbitration provision contained in any other agreement governing or applicable to such loan or indebtedness.

### **Mediation Requirement Prior to Filing a Claim in Arbitration**

Prior to either party filing a claim in arbitration and as a necessary condition precedent to doing so, you or we shall first make a written demand upon the other party setting forth their claim at our address set forth below or at your last address or email address on record. The demand should describe the nature of the problem, claim, or dispute and set forth the specific relief the claimant desires, including the amount of any monetary damages sought.

The parties shall then attempt in good faith to use their best efforts to resolve the dispute for a minimum of 60 days before any claim may be filed in arbitration; which time period may be extended by mutual agreement. During this time period, both parties agree to toll any applicable statute of limitations. Under no circumstances may either party make a claim in arbitration against the other prior to the completion of the pre-arbitration time period.

Within the first 30 days of the pre-arbitration time period, the parties shall confer at least once by phone, in person, or by videoconference at a mutually convenient date and time to discuss the potential resolution of the claim.

If either party commences a claim in arbitration without first attempting to resolve their dispute in good faith through mediation then that party shall not be entitled to recover any attorney fees in arbitration, even if they would otherwise been available to that party.

### **Commencing an Arbitration.**

The arbitration must be filed with the following neutral arbitration forum and follow its rules and procedures for initiating and pursuing an arbitration:

JAMS  
1-800-352-5267 (toll-free)  
[www.jamsadr.com](http://www.jamsadr.com)

If we initiate the arbitration, we will notify you in writing at your last known address on file. You may obtain a copy of the arbitration rules and additional information about initiating an arbitration by contacting JAMS.

If you initiate the arbitration, you must notify us in writing at:

Black Hills Federal Credit Union  
ATTN: Legal  
P.O. Box 1420  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709

The arbitration shall be conducted in the same city as the U.S. District Court closest to your home address unless the parties agree to a different location in writing.

### **Administration of Arbitration.**

The arbitration shall be decided by a single, neutral arbitrator. The arbitrator will be either a lawyer with at least ten years' experience or a retired or former judge selected in accordance with the rules of the arbitration forum. The arbitration will be conducted in accordance with the JAMS Comprehensive Arbitration Rules & Procedures in effect on the date the arbitration is filed or such other rules as to which the parties may agree. If there is a conflict between a particular provision of the JAMS Rules and this arbitration agreement, this arbitration agreement will control.

If JAMS is unable to or unwilling to handle the claim for any reason, then the matter shall be arbitrated by a neutral arbitrator selected by agreement of the parties (or, if the parties cannot agree, selected by a court in accordance with the Federal Arbitration Act). The neutral arbitrator selected by the parties or the court shall apply the Federal Rules of Evidence and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure concerning discovery, except that the below class action waiver is specifically enforceable notwithstanding any Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to the contrary.

You understand and agree that the applicable rules and procedures in arbitration may limit the discovery available to you or us. The arbitrator must take reasonable steps to protect customer account information and other confidential information if requested to do so by you or by us. The arbitrator shall decide the dispute in accordance with applicable substantive law consistent with

the Federal Arbitration Act and applicable statutes of limitations, will honor claims of privilege recognized at law, and will be empowered to award only those damages or other relief provided for under applicable law. The arbitrator will not have the power to award relief to, or against, any person who is not a party to the arbitration other than, as allowed by law, a joint accountholder or any entity in privity with either party as to the claim at issue. An award in arbitration shall determine the rights and obligations between the named parties or those in direct privity with the named parties only, and only in respect of the claims in arbitration, and shall not have any bearing on the rights and obligations of any other person other than those identified in the foregoing sentence, or on the resolution of any other dispute. You or we may choose to have a hearing and be represented by counsel. The decision rendered by the arbitrator shall be in writing. At your or our request, the arbitrator shall issue a written, reasoned decision following applicable law, and relief granted must be relief that could be granted by a court under applicable law. Judgment on the arbitration award may be entered by any court of competent jurisdiction.

### **Costs.**

If you initiate a claim for arbitration, you understand that you will be required to pay an initial filing fee in accordance with the rules of the arbitration forum. However, we will pay any other filing, administration, and arbitrator fees as imposed by the arbitration forum. Each party shall bear the expense of their respective attorneys, experts, witnesses, and other expenses, regardless of who prevails, but a party may recover any or all costs and expenses from another party if the arbitrator, applying applicable law, so determines.

### **Right to Resort to Provisional Remedies Preserved.**

Nothing herein shall be deemed to limit or constrain our right to resort to self-help remedies, such as the right of set-off or the right to restrain funds in an account, to interplead funds in the event of a dispute, to exercise any security interest or lien rights we may hold in property, or to comply with legal process, or to obtain provisional remedies such as injunctive relief, attachment, or garnishment by a court having appropriate jurisdiction; provided, however, that you or we may elect to arbitrate any dispute related to such provisional remedies.

### **Arbitration Award.**

The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding unless a party appeals it in writing to the arbitration forum within fifteen days of notice of the award or pursuant to the rules of the arbitration forum, whichever is later. The appeal must request a new arbitration before a panel of three neutral arbitrators selected in accordance with the rules of the same arbitration forum. The panel will consider all factual and legal issues anew, follow the same rules that apply to a proceeding using a single arbitrator, and make decisions based on the vote of the majority. Costs will be allocated in the same manner as allocated before a single arbitrator. An award by a panel is final and binding on the parties after fifteen days of notice of the award or pursuant to the rules of the arbitration forum, whichever is later. A final and binding award is subject to judicial intervention or review only to the extent allowed under the Federal Arbitration Act or other applicable law. A party may seek to have a final and binding award entered as a judgment in any court having jurisdiction.

**Governing Law.**

You and we agree that our relationship includes transactions involving interstate commerce and that this arbitration agreement is governed by, and enforceable under, the Federal Arbitration Act in Title 9 of the U.S. Code to the fullest extent possible, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary, regardless of the nature or origin of the claim. To the extent state law is applicable, the laws of the State of South Dakota shall apply.

**Severability, Survival.**

This arbitration agreement shall survive (a) termination or changes to your accounts or any related services; (b) the bankruptcy of any party; and (c) the transfer or assignment of your accounts or any related services. If the Class Action Waiver in this specific arbitration agreement is found to be unenforceable for any reason, then the remainder of this arbitration agreement shall also be unenforceable. If any provision in this arbitration agreement, other than the Class Action Waiver, is found to be unenforceable, then the remaining provisions shall remain fully enforceable. Notwithstanding anything in this binding arbitration of claims and disputes agreement and class action waiver to the contrary, any amendment or termination of this arbitration agreement by statute, by administrative action or otherwise, shall not apply to the claims that arise out of, affect or relate to conduct that occurred prior to the effective date of such amendment or termination.

**Right to Reject this Arbitration Agreement.**

You have the right to opt out of this agreement to arbitrate if you opt out within 30 days after you have opened or joined your first account with us, either as a member or as a joint accountholder. However, if we sent or offered you this or any version of an agreement to arbitrate for the first time after your first account was opened, you must opt out within 30 days after we sent our notice and the agreement. To opt-out, send us written notice as follows: (i) your written notice must include your name, as listed on your account, your account number, and a statement that you reject this agreement to arbitrate, and, (ii) you must send your written notice to us at the following address: Black Hills Federal Credit Union, ATTN: Legal, P.O. Box 1420, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57709.

## **CLASS ACTION WAIVER**

No member or accountholder may maintain or pursue against the Credit Union a class action, class-wide arbitration, or private attorney general action. Nor shall any class action, class-wide arbitration, or private attorney general action be pursued by a member against the Credit Union in any arbitration or in any court proceeding, regardless of when the claim or cause of action arose or accrued, or when the allegations or facts underlying the claim or cause of action occurred.

Opt-Out Right: You have the right to opt out of this waiver, set forth in the paragraph above, if you opt out within 30 days after you have opened or joined your first account with us, either as a member or as a joint accountholder. However, if we sent or offered you this or any version of this waiver for the first time after your first account was opened, you must opt out within 30 days after we sent our notice and waiver. To opt out, send us written notice as follows: (i) your written notice must include your name, as listed on your account, your account number, and a statement that you reject this class action waiver, and, (ii) you must send your written notice to us at the following address: Black Hills Federal Credit Union, ATTN: Legal, P.O. Box 1420, Rapid City, South Dakota, 57709.