



CUSTOMER RIGHTS POLICY

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PREFACE

Customer Rights Policy

Customer rights assumes great importance in banking services. A well-documented and transparent policy on customer rights will function as a guiding force for Banks to improve their service quality.

The Customer Rights Policy underscores basic rights of customers of our bank regulated by the Reserve Bank of India. It spells out the rights of the customer and also the responsibilities of the bank. The Policy applies to all products and services offered by the bank or its agents, whether provided across the counter, over phone, by post, through interactive electronic devices, on internet or by any other method.

1. Right to Fair Treatment

Both the customer and the financial service provider have the right to be treated with courtesy. The customer will not be unfairly discriminated when offering and delivering financial products.

In pursuance of the above Right, bank will -

Promote good and fair banking practices by setting minimum standards in dealings with customers.

Promote a fair and equitable relationship between the bank and the customer.

Train bank staff attending to the customers, adequately & appropriately.

Ensure that staff members attend to customers & their business promptly & courteously.

Treat all customers fairly and not discriminate on grounds such as gender, age, religion, caste, literacy, economic status physical ability, etc. Bank may, however, have special schemes or products which are specifically designed for members of a target market group or may use defensible, commercially acceptable economic rationale for customer differentiation. Bank may also have schemes or products as part of an affirmative action such as for women or backward classes. Such schemes / products will not tantamount to unfair discrimination. The rationale for such special schemes or terms will be explained by bank wherever required.

Ensure that the above principle is applied while offering all products and services.

Ensure that the products and services offered are in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

The Bank shall endeavour to provide customers with hassle free and fair treatment. Bank would expect customers to behave courteously and honestly in their dealings with the bank.

It shall also be the bank's endeavour to encourage its customers to approach the bank's internal grievance redressal machinery and approach the alternate machinery set up or available under the law in force for redressal after exhausting all their remedies under bank's internal grievance mechanism.

2. Right to Transparency, Fair and Honest Dealing

The Bank will make every effort to ensure that the contracts or agreements it frames are transparent, easily understood by and well communicated to the common person. The product's price, the associated risks, the terms and conditions that govern use over the product's life cycle and the responsibilities of the customer & financial service provider will be clearly disclosed. The customer will not be subject to unfair business or marketing practices, coercive contractual terms or misleading representation.

In pursuance of the above Right, the bank will -

Ensure complete transparency so that the customer can have a better understanding of what he/she can reasonably / fairly expect from the bank.

Ensure that the bank's dealings with the customer rests on ethical principles of equity, integrity and transparency.

Provide customers with clear information about the products & services, terms & conditions, and the interest rates / service charges in simple & easily understandable language, with sufficient information to enable them to make an appropriate and informed choice of the product.

Ensure that all terms and conditions are fair and set out the respective rights, liabilities and obligations clearly and as far as possible in plain & simple language.

Make known the key risks associated with the product as well as any features that may especially disadvantage the customer. Most Important Terms & Conditions (MITC) associated with the product or service will be clearly brought to the notice of the customer while offering the product. In general, it will be ensured that such terms will not inhibit a customer's future choices.

Provide information on interest rates, fees and charges either on the Notice Board in the branches / website / through help-lines / help-desk and wherever normally possible and appropriate the customer will be informed directly.

Display the tariff Schedule on Bank's Website and a copy of it will be made available at every branch for customer's perusal. Bank will display in branches a notice about the availability of the Tariff Schedule at the Branch.

Give details, in the Tariff Schedule, of all charges, if any, applicable to the products and services chosen by customer.

Inform the customer of any change in the terms and conditions through a letter or Statement of Account, SMS or email of the customer at least one month prior to the revised terms and conditions becoming effective unless otherwise mandated by RBI or statutory regulatory authority acting under the law in force.

Ensure that such changes are made only with prospective effect after giving due notice. If the bank has made any change without giving such notice which is favourable to the customer, it will notify the change within 30 days of such change. If the change is adverse to the customer, prior due notice as per (ix) will be provided and the customer may be provided options, to close the account or switch to any other eligible account without having to pay the revised charge or interest within 60 days of such notice.

Provide information about the penalties leviable in case of non-observance / breach of any of the terms and conditions governing the product / services chosen by the customer.

Display on public domain the Banks' Policies on Deposits, Cheque Collection, Grievance Redressal, Compensation and Collection of Dues and Security Repossession.

Make every effort to ensure that staff dealing in a particular product is properly trained to provide relevant information to customers fully, correctly and honestly.

Ensure to communicate to the applicant within a reasonable time period as decided by the bank about the acceptance / non-acceptance of applications submitted for availing a product / service and convey in writing the reasons for not accepting / declining the application. Such period will be notified in the bank's website and also in the application of the particular product or service

Communicate unambiguously the information about :

- Discontinuation of particular products
- Relocation of their offices changes in working hours
- Change in telephone numbers
- Closure of any office or branch

with due notice as per (ix) above.

Bank also affirms that disclosure of information is an on-going process through the life-cycle of the product / relationship and will be diligently followed. Ensure to use all possible channels of communication, including web-site, to ensure that information on all changes are made known to the customer upfront. Advise the customer at the time of selling the product of the rights and obligations embedded in law, banking regulation including the need to report any critical incidents that the customer suspect, discover or encounter.

The bank's staff members shall, when approached by the customer for availing a product or service, provide all relevant information related to the product / service and also provide direction to informational resources on similar products available in the market with a view to enable the customer to make an informed decision.

Not terminate a customer relationship without giving reasonable or contractual prior notice to the customer.

Assist the customer in all available ways for managing his / her account, financial relationship by providing regular inputs in the bank's realms such as account statements / Passbooks, alerts, timely information about the product's performance, term deposit maturity etc.

Ensure that all marketing and promotional material is clear and not misleading.

Not threaten the customer with physical harm, exert influence or engage in behaviour that would reasonably be construed as unwarranted harassment. Ensure adherence only to the normal and appropriate business practices.

Ensure that the fees and charges on products & services and its structure are not unreasonable to the customer.

3. Right to Suitability

The products will be offered appropriate to the needs of the customer and based on an assessment of the customer's financial circumstances and understanding.

In pursuance of the above Right, the bank will:

Ensure that it has a Board approved policy for assessing suitability of products for customers prior to sale.

Endeavour to make sure that the products / service sold or offered are appropriate to the customer's needs and not inappropriate to the customer's financial standing and understanding based on the assessment made by it. Such assessment will be appropriately documented in it's records.

Sell third party products only if it is authorized to do so, after putting in place a Board approved policy for marketing and distributing third party financial products.

Not compel a customer to subscribe to any third party products as a quid-pro-quo for any service availed from the bank.

Ensure that the products being sold or service being offered, including third party products are in accordance with extant rules and regulations.

Inform the customer about his responsibility to promptly and honestly provide all relevant and reasonable information that is sought by bank to enable them to determine the suitability of the product to the customer.

4. Right to Privacy

Customers' personal information will be kept confidential unless they have offered specific consent to the financial service provider / such information is required to be provided under the law / it is provided for a mandated business purpose (for example, to credit information companies). The customer will be informed upfront about likely mandated business purposes. Customers have the right to protection from all kinds of communications, electronic or otherwise, which infringe upon their privacy.

In pursuance of the above Right, bank will -

Treat customer's personal information as private and confidential (even when the customer is no longer banking with us), and, as a general rule, not disclose such information to any other individual / institutions including it's subsidiaries / associates, tie-up institutions etc. for any purpose unless :

The customer has authorized such disclosure explicitly in writing

Disclosure is compelled by law / regulation.

Bank has a duty to the public to disclose i.e. in public interest

Bank has to protect its interests through disclosure

It is for a regulatorily mandated business purpose such as disclosure of default to credit information companies or debt collection agencies

Ensure such likely mandated disclosures be communicated immediately to the customer in writing.

Shall not use or share customer's personal information for marketing purpose, unless the customer has specifically authorized it.

Shall adhere to Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018 (National Customer Preference Registry) issued by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, while communicating with customers.

5. Right to Grievance Redress and Compensation

The customer has a right to hold the financial services provider accountable for the products offered and to have a clear and easy way to have any valid grievances redressed. The provider should also facilitate redressal of grievances stemming from its sale of third party products. The financial services provider must communicate its policy for compensating mistakes, lapses in conduct, as well as non-performance or delays in performance, whether caused by the provider or otherwise. The policy must lay out the rights and duties of the customer when such events occur.

In pursuance of the above Right, bank will :

Deal sympathetically and expeditiously with all things that go wrong.

Correct mistakes promptly.

Cancel any charge that has been applied wrongly and by mistake.

Compensate the customer for any direct financial loss that might have been incurred by the customer due to its lapses.

The bank will also :

Place in public domain its Customer Grievance Redressal Policy, including the grievance redressal procedure available for the customer.

Place in public domain the compensation policy for delays / lapses in conducting / settling customer transactions within the stipulated time and in accordance with the agreed terms of contract.

Ensure to have a robust and responsive grievance redressal procedure and clearly indicate the grievance resolution authority who shall be approached by the customer.

Make grievance redressal mechanism easily accessible to customers.

Advise the customer about how to make a complaint, to whom such a complaint is to be made, when to expect a reply and what to do if the customer is not satisfied with the outcome.

Display name, address and contact details of the Grievance Redressal Authority / Nodal Officer. The time limit for resolution of complaints will be clearly displayed / accessible at all service delivery locations.

Inform the complainant of the option to escalate his complaint to the Banking Ombudsman if the complaint is not redressed within the pre-set time.

Place in public domain information about Banking Ombudsman Scheme.

Display at customer contact points the name and contact details of the Banking Ombudsman under whose jurisdiction the bank's branch falls.

Further, the bank will :

Acknowledge all formal complaints through electronic media or otherwise (including complaints lodged through electronic means) within three working days and work to resolve it within a reasonable period, not exceeding 30 days (including the time for escalation and examination of the complaint by the highest ranking internal official responsible for grievance redressal). The 30 day period will be reckoned after all the necessary information sought from the customer is received.

Provide aggrieved customers with the details of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme for resolution of a complaint if the customer is not satisfied with the resolution of a dispute, or with the outcome of a dispute handling process.

In addition, the bank will a) clearly spell out, at the time of establishing a customer relationship, the liability for losses, as well as the rights and responsibilities of all parties, in the event of products not performing as per specifications or things going wrong. However, the bank will not be liable for any losses caused by extraneous circumstances that are beyond its reasonable control (such as market changes, performance of the product due to market variables, etc.). b) Ensure the customer is refunded without delay and demur, if it cannot show beyond reasonable doubt to the customer on any disputed transaction (along with interest / charges).

6. Time Frame for opening different types of account products.

Bank shall endeavour to ensure that various account / deposit products are opened and transacted adhering to time frame as given hereunder.

PARTICULARS OF VARIOUS PRODUCTS		TIME TAKEN
Opening of Savings Banks & Related services		
1)	Retail SB Accounts if request submitted in full respect as far as KYC and internal controls are concerned before 12 Noon of any working day	12 Hours
	Retail SB Accounts if request submitted in full respect as far as KYC and internal controls are concerned after 12 Noon of any working day	36 Hours
Current Deposit		
2)	Opening of account - Corporate CD Accounts if request submitted in full respect as far as KYC and internal controls are concerned on any working day	T+2 days
Term Deposits		
3)	Opening of Term Deposits - KND, FD, FCD, RD etc	60 minutes