

# AGREEMENT FOR ARBITRATION AND WAIVER OF CLASS ACTION



You and Sunward Federal Credit Union (the "Credit Union") agree that we shall attempt to informally settle any and all disputes arising out of, affecting, or relating to your accounts, or the products or services the Credit Union has provided, will provide or has offered to provide to you, and/or any aspect of your relationship with the Credit Union (hereafter referred to as the "Claims"). If that cannot be done, then you agree that any and all Claims that are threatened, made, filed or initiated after the Effective Date (defined below) of this Agreement for Arbitration and Waiver of Class Action ("Arbitration Agreement"), even if the Claims arise out of, affect or relate to conduct that occurred prior to the Effective Date, shall, at the election of either you or us, be resolved by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") in accordance with its applicable rules and procedures for consumer disputes ("Rules"), whether such Claims are in contract, tort, statute, or otherwise. The Rules can be obtained on the AAA website free of charge at [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org); or, a copy of the Rules can be obtained at any Credit Union branch upon request. Either you or we may elect to resolve a particular Claim through arbitration, even if one of us has already initiated litigation in court related to the Claim, by: (a) making written demand for arbitration upon the other party, (b) initiating arbitration against the other party, or (c) filing a motion to compel arbitration in court. AS A RESULT, IF EITHER YOU OR WE ELECT TO RESOLVE A PARTICULAR CLAIM THROUGH ARBITRATION, YOU WILL GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO GO TO COURT TO ASSERT OR DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THIS ARBITRATION AGREEMENT (EXCEPT FOR CLAIMS BROUGHT INDIVIDUALLY WITHIN SMALL CLAIMS COURT JURISDICTION, SO LONG AS THE CLAIM REMAINS IN SMALL CLAIMS COURT). This Arbitration Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the Federal Arbitration Act set forth in Title 9 of the U.S. Code to the fullest extent possible, notwithstanding any state law to the contrary, regardless of the origin or nature of the Claims at issue. This Arbitration Agreement does not prevent you from submitting any issue relating to your accounts for review or consideration by a federal, state, or local governmental agency or entity, nor does it prevent such agency or entity from seeking relief on your behalf. This Arbitration Agreement shall not apply to claims that are initiated in or transferred to small claims court.

**1. Selection of Arbitrator.** The Claims shall be resolved by a single arbitrator. The arbitrator shall be selected in accordance with the Rules, and must have experience in the types of financial transactions at issue in the Claims. In the event of a conflict between the Rules and this Arbitration Agreement, this Arbitration Agreement shall supersede the conflicting Rules only to the extent of the inconsistency. If AAA is unavailable to resolve the Claims, and if you and we do not agree on a substitute forum, then you can select the forum for the resolution of the Claims.

**2. Effective Date.** This Arbitration Agreement is effective upon the 31st day after we provide it to you ("Effective Date"), unless you opt-out in accordance with the requirements of the RIGHT TO OPT-OUT provision below. If you receive your statements by mail, then this Arbitration Agreement was provided to you when it was mailed. If you receive your statements electronically, then this Arbitration Agreement was provided to you when you were sent notice electronically.

**3. Arbitration Proceedings.** The arbitration shall be conducted within 50 miles of your residence at the time the arbitration is commenced. Any claims and defenses that can be asserted in court can be asserted in the arbitration. The Arbitrator shall be entitled to award the same remedies that a court can award, including any kind of relief that could be awarded by a court, including injunctive relief. Discovery shall be available for non-privileged information to the fullest extent permitted under the Rules. The Arbitrator's award can be entered as a judgment in court. Except as provided in applicable statutes, the arbitrator's award is not subject to review by the court and it cannot be appealed. The Credit Union shall pay for any filing, administration, and arbitrator fees imposed on you by the AAA. However, you will be responsible for your own attorneys' fees, unless you prevail on your Claim in the arbitration, in which case, we will pay your attorneys' fees. Conversely, if the Credit Union prevails, then you will not be required to pay its attorneys' fees and costs. Nothing contained in this Arbitration Agreement shall prevent either you or the Credit Union from applying to any court of competent jurisdiction for emergency provisional relief, such as a temporary restraining order, a temporary protective order, an attachment or any other pre-judgment remedies.

Any determination as to whether this Arbitration Agreement is valid or enforceable in part or in its entirety will be made solely by the arbitrator, including without limitation any issues relating to whether a Claim is subject to arbitration; provided, however, the enforceability of the Class Action Waiver set forth below shall be determined by the Court.

**4. Class Action Waiver.** ANY ARBITRATION OF A CLAIM WILL BE ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT YOU ARE WAIVING THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE AS A CLASS REPRESENTATIVE OR CLASS MEMBER IN A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.

**5. Severability.** In the event the Class Action Waiver in this Arbitration Agreement is found to be unenforceable for any reason, 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, the remaining provisions shall remain fully enforceable.

**6. Right to Opt-Out.** You have the right to opt-out of this Arbitration Agreement and it will not affect any other terms and conditions of your Membership and Account Agreement or your relationship with the Credit Union. To opt out, you must notify the Credit Union in writing of your intent to do so within 30 days after the Effective Date. Your opt-out will not be effective and you will be deemed to have consented and agreed to the Arbitration Agreement unless your notice of intent to opt out is received by the Credit Union in writing at one of our branches, via mail or other delivery service to 3707 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, via mail or other delivery service to 3707 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87111, via email to [ArbitrationOptOut@GoSunward.org](mailto:ArbitrationOptOut@GoSunward.org), or via secure message through online or mobile banking, within such 30-day time period. Your notice of intent to opt out can be a letter that is signed by you or a secure message sent by you that states "I elect to opt out of the Arbitration Agreement" or any words to that effect.

FOR MORE DETAILS or if you have questions, you may call us or visit a branch. If you have questions about AAA procedures, you should check AAA's website, [www.adr.org](http://www.adr.org), OR call AAA at (800) 778-7879.

