

**FINANCIAL INDUSTRY REGULATORY AUTHORITY
LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE, WAIVER AND CONSENT
NO. 2019064174601**

TO: Department of Enforcement
Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA)

RE: Forouzan Pooladi, Respondent
Former Registered Representative
CRD No. 6642157

Pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216 of FINRA's Code of Procedure, Respondent Forouzan Pooladi submits this Letter of Acceptance, Waiver and Consent (AWC) for the purpose of proposing a settlement of the alleged rule violations described below. This AWC is submitted on the condition that, if accepted, FINRA will not bring any future actions against Respondent alleging violations based on the same factual findings described herein.

I.

ACCEPTANCE AND CONSENT

- A. Respondent hereby accepts and consents, without admitting or denying the findings, and solely for the purposes of this proceeding and any other proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, prior to a hearing and without an adjudication of any issue of law or fact, to the entry of the following findings by FINRA:

BACKGROUND

Pooladi was registered with FINRA through J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (JPMS) as an Investment Company Shares and Variable Contracts Representative beginning in May 2016. JPMS terminated Pooladi's registration by filing a Uniform Termination Notice for Securities Industry Registration (Form U5) on October 4, 2019, indicating that she was "terminated for violating affiliate bank policy governing personal finances by conducting numerous transactions under the currency transaction reporting threshold; and for performing an affiliate bank transaction between a business customer and husband's personal affiliate bank account."

Although she is no longer associated with a FINRA member firm, Pooladi remains subject to FINRA's jurisdiction pursuant to Article V, Section 4 of FINRA's By-Laws of the Corporation.

RELEVANT DISCIPLINARY HISTORY

Respondent does not have any disciplinary history with the Securities and Exchange Commission, any state securities regulators, FINRA, or any other self-regulatory organization.

OVERVIEW

In July 2020, Pooladi refused to respond to an information request issued pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, thereby violating FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

FACTS AND VIOLATIVE CONDUCT

FINRA began an investigation after receiving the October 4, 2019 Form U5 referenced above.

FINRA Rule 8210(a) states, in relevant part, that FINRA has the right to “require a . . . person associated with a member, or any other person subject to FINRA’s jurisdiction to provide information . . . in writing or electronically . . . with respect to any matter involved in the investigation, complaint, examination or proceeding.” FINRA Rule 8210(c) similarly provides that “[n]o member or person shall fail to provide information . . . pursuant to this Rule.”

Although Pooladi initially cooperated with FINRA’s investigation, she ceased doing so in July 2020. On July 1, 2020, FINRA staff sent a request to Pooladi for information and documents pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210. As stated during her phone call with FINRA staff on July 27, 2020 and emails dated July 13 and 28, 2020, and by this agreement, Respondent acknowledges that she received FINRA’s request and will not produce the information or documents requested.

By refusing to produce the information or documents as requested pursuant to FINRA Rule 8210, Respondent has violated FINRA Rules 8210 and 2010.

B. Respondent also consents to the imposition of the following sanctions:

- A bar from associating with any FINRA member in any capacity.

Respondent understands that if she is barred or suspended from associating with any FINRA member, she becomes subject to a statutory disqualification as that term is defined in Article III, Section 4 of FINRA’s By-Laws, incorporating Section 3(a)(39) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Accordingly, she may not be associated with any FINRA member in any capacity, including clerical or ministerial functions, during the period of the bar or suspension. See FINRA Rules 8310 and 8311.

The sanctions imposed herein shall be effective on a date set by FINRA staff. A bar or expulsion shall become effective upon approval or acceptance of this AWC.

II.

WAIVER OF PROCEDURAL RIGHTS

Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives the following rights granted under FINRA's Code of Procedure:

- A. To have a Complaint issued specifying the allegations against her;
- B. To be notified of the Complaint and have the opportunity to answer the allegations in writing;
- C. To defend against the allegations in a disciplinary hearing before a hearing panel, to have a written record of the hearing made and to have a written decision issued; and
- D. To appeal any such decision to the National Adjudicatory Council (NAC) and then to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Further, Respondent specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim bias or prejudgment of the Chief Legal Officer, the NAC, or any member of the NAC, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including acceptance or rejection of this AWC.

Respondent further specifically and voluntarily waives any right to claim that a person violated the ex parte prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9143 or the separation of functions prohibitions of FINRA Rule 9144, in connection with such person's or body's participation in discussions regarding the terms and conditions of this AWC, or other consideration of this AWC, including its acceptance or rejection.

III.

OTHER MATTERS

Respondent understands that:

- A. Submission of this AWC is voluntary and will not resolve this matter unless and until it has been reviewed and accepted by the NAC, a Review Subcommittee of the NAC, or the Office of Disciplinary Affairs (ODA), pursuant to FINRA Rule 9216;
- B. If this AWC is not accepted, its submission will not be used as evidence to prove any of the allegations against Respondent; and
- C. If accepted:

1. this AWC will become part of Respondent's permanent disciplinary record and may be considered in any future action brought by FINRA or any other regulator against Respondent;
2. this AWC will be made available through FINRA's public disclosure program in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313;
3. FINRA may make a public announcement concerning this agreement and the subject matter thereof in accordance with FINRA Rule 8313; and
4. Respondent may not take any action or make or permit to be made any public statement, including in regulatory filings or otherwise, denying, directly or indirectly, any finding in this AWC or create the impression that the AWC is without factual basis. Respondent may not take any position in any proceeding brought by or on behalf of FINRA, or to which FINRA is a party, that is inconsistent with any part of this AWC. Nothing in this provision affects Respondent's: (i) testimonial obligations; or (ii) right to take legal or factual positions in litigation or other legal proceedings in which FINRA is not a party.

Respondent certifies that she has read and understands all of the provisions of this AWC and has been given a full opportunity to ask questions about it; Respondent understands and acknowledges that FINRA does not represent or advise her and Respondent cannot rely on FINRA or FINRA staff members for legal advice. Respondent has agreed to the AWC's provisions voluntarily; and no offer, threat, inducement, or promise of any kind, other than the terms set forth herein and the prospect of avoiding the issuance of a Complaint, has been made to induce her to submit this AWC.

7/30/2020

Date

F. Pooladi

Forouzan Pooladi
Respondent

Accepted by FINRA:

Signed on behalf of the
Director of ODA, by delegated authority

8/12/2020

Date

Michael J. Rogal

Michael J. Rogal
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