

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
WASHINGTON, D.C.

In the Matter of

CHANDLAR GROCE,

A Former Institution-Affiliated Party of

ARVEST BANK,
Fayetteville, Arkansas,

A State Member Bank.

Docket No. 23-022-E-I

Order of Prohibition Issued Upon
Consent Pursuant to Section 8(e) of
the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as
Amended

WHEREAS, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System (the “Board of Governors”), pursuant to section 8(e) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, as amended (the “FDI Act”), 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e), issues this Order of Prohibition (this “Order”) upon the consent of Respondent Chandlar Groce (“Groce”), a former employee and institution-affiliated party, as defined in sections 3(u) and 8(b)(3) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. §§ 1813(u) and 1818(b)(3), of Arvest Bank (the “Bank”), a state member bank;

WHEREAS, Groce was employed as a sales and service representative at a Bank branch in Fayetteville, Arkansas, from August 9, 2021 until her termination on May 12, 2022;

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2022, an elderly bank customer reported unauthorized withdrawals from the customer’s account in the amount of \$6,617.24;

WHEREAS, from March 2022 through April 2022, Groce made transfers from the elderly customer’s account to her own accounts, for her personal benefit, and without authorization;

WHEREAS, Groce's conduct included the unauthorized and improper use of an elder's assets for personal benefit, constituting elder abuse;

WHEREAS, Groce's unauthorized transactions were contrary to the Bank's written policies and procedures and constituted violations of law or regulation, unsafe or unsound banking practices, and a breach of fiduciary duties;

WHEREAS, Groce's conduct caused the Bank to suffer a financial loss and posed financial, legal, and reputational risks to the Bank;

WHEREAS, by affixing her signature hereunder, Groce has consented to the issuance of this Order by the Board of Governors and has agreed to comply with each and every provision of this Order, and has waived any and all rights she might have pursuant to 12 U.S.C. § 1818, 12 C.F.R. Part 263, or otherwise: (a) to the issuance of a notice of intent to prohibit on any other matter implied or set forth in this Order; (b) to a hearing for the purpose of taking evidence with respect to any matter implied or set forth in this Order; (c) to obtain judicial review of this Order or any provision hereof; and (d) to challenge or contest in any manner the basis, issuance, terms, validity, effectiveness, or enforceability of this Order or any provision hereof.

NOW THEREFORE, before the filing of any notices, or the taking of any testimony or adjudication of or finding on any issue of fact or law herein, and without Groce admitting or denying any allegation made or implied by the Board of Governors in connection herewith, and solely for the purpose of settlement of this matter without a formal proceeding being filed and without the necessity for protracted litigation or extended hearings,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Groce, without the prior written approval of the Board of Governors and, where necessary pursuant to section 8(e)(7)(B) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(B), another Federal financial institutions regulatory agency, is hereby and henceforth prohibited from:

- a. participating in any manner in the conduct of the affairs of any institution or agency specified in section 8(e)(7)(A) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(A), including, but not limited to, any insured depository institution or any holding company of an insured depository institution, or any subsidiary of such holding company, or any foreign bank or company to which subsection (a) of 12 U.S.C. § 3106 applies and any subsidiary of such foreign bank or company;
- b. soliciting, procuring, transferring, attempting to transfer, voting or attempting to vote any proxy, consent, or authorization with respect to any voting rights in any institution described in section 8(e)(7)(A) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(A);
- c. violating any voting agreement previously approved by any Federal banking agency;
- d. voting for a director, or serving or acting as an institution-affiliated party, as defined in sections 3(u) and 8(b)(3) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. §§ 1813(u) and 1818(b)(3), such as an officer, director or employee, in any institution described in section 8(e)(7)(A) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C. § 1818(e)(7)(A).

2. All communications regarding this Order shall be addressed to:

- a. Richard M. Ashton, Esq.
Deputy General Counsel

David Williams, Esq.
Associate General Counsel
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System
20th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20551

b. Chandler Groce
Attn: James B. Pierce
Office of the Federal Public Defender
Western District of Arkansas
30 S. 6th Street
Fort Smith, Arkansas 72901

3. Any violation of this Order shall separately subject Groce to appropriate civil or criminal penalties, or both, under sections 8(i) and (j) of the FDI Act, 12 U.S.C §§ 1818(i) and (j).

4. The provisions of this Order shall not bar, estop, or otherwise prevent the Board of Governors, or any other Federal or state agency or department, from taking any other action affecting Groce; provided, however, that the Board of Governors shall not take any further action against Groce on any matters concerning or arising from the matters addressed by this Order based upon facts presently known by the Board of Governors. This release and discharge shall not preclude or affect (i) any right of the Board of Governors to determine and ensure compliance with this Order, or (ii) any proceedings brought by the Board of Governors to enforce the terms of this Order.

5. Each provision of this Order shall remain fully effective and enforceable until expressly stayed, modified, terminated, or suspended in writing by the Board of Governors.

By order of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, effective this 17th day of November, 2023.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE
FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

/s/ Chandlar Groce
Chandlar Groce

By: /s/ Ann E. Misback
Ann E. Misback
Secretary of the Board