

Student Guide

Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse

Objective	To help the learner identify Drug Involvement security concerns as outlined in the Security Executive Agent Directive 4 National Security Guidelines, effective June 08, 2017.
Estimated Completion Time	20 Minutes

Screen 1

Meet Joseph DeAngelo. He is a 53 year old communication specialist employed by a U.S. Government contractor. Joseph recently transferred to another division within his company to work on a new project. The position requires Secret eligibility and access.

Joseph submitted the required paperwork to initiate his security background investigation through his security office.

Now, your task is to review Joseph's completed background investigation files and make an eligibility determination. Please note that other adjudicative guidelines may apply. In this case you will focus only on Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse.

Screen 2

The most important part of an adjudicator's job is to examine a sufficient period of a person's life to determine whether or not the person is an acceptable security risk.

This task should never be taken lightly as cleared personnel may eventually have access to classified information.

Adjudicators take into consideration all relevant information, both favorable and unfavorable from a person's past and present to form the "whole-person" concept, when making an eligibility determination.

Screen 3

In evaluating the relevance of an individual's conduct, the adjudicator should consider the following factors:

- The nature, extent, and seriousness of the conduct;
- The circumstances surrounding the conduct to include knowledgeable participation;
- The frequency and recency of the conduct;
- The individual's age and maturity at the time of the conduct;

- The extent to which participation is voluntary;
- The presence or absence of rehabilitation and other permanent behavior changes;
- The motivation for the conduct;
- The potential for pressure, coercion, exploitation, or duress; and
- The likelihood of continuation or recurrence.

Screen 4

Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse, states the illegal use of controlled substances, to include the misuse of prescription and non-prescription drugs, and the use of other substances that cause physical or mental impairment or are used in a manner inconsistent with their intended purpose can raise questions about an individual's reliability and trustworthiness, both because such behavior may lead to physical or psychological impairment and because it raises questions about a person's ability or willingness to comply with laws, rules, and regulations. Controlled substance means any controlled substance" as defined in 21 U.S.C. 802. Substance misuse is the generic term adopted in this guideline to describe any of the behaviors listed above.

While reviewing Joseph's investigative file and SF 86, you read that he has used marijuana approximately 5 to 6 times a year during the past 28 years.

Click on the folder to review the details in Joseph's file.

(File folder information.)

Joseph DeAngelo: Investigative File

- During the subject interview Joseph stated that he first used marijuana approximately 30 years ago while in graduate school. Throughout this period, (approximately two years) he smoked with friends once or twice each month.
- Joseph stated as listed on his SF 86, he has used marijuana in social settings approximately 5 to 6 times a year for the past 28 years. He volunteered that his last use occurred at a gathering with friends two weeks after submitting his security paperwork.
- Joseph stated that he does not use marijuana often and has no intentions of using it during the work week, so it would not interfere with his job. He feels marijuana should be legalized at the Federal level, and indicated what he does during his off time is not any of the government's business.

Screen 5

Does the information in Joseph's file raise a valid security concern under Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse?

Click on the file folder to review the file and select the disqualifier(s) that apply to Joseph's case.

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 6

Joseph's use of marijuana is a security concern, but each Adjudicative Guideline has specific mitigating conditions that sometimes allow an applicant to be cleared in spite of the concern.

Do any mitigating conditions apply to Joseph's case?

Click on the file folder to review the file and select the mitigator(s) that apply to Joseph's case.

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 7

The information from Joseph's background investigation raised a concern under Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse.

This concern cannot be mitigated. Although Joseph told the investigator he did not intend to use marijuana during the work week, his long history of drug use, his use after submitting his security paperwork, and his intent to continue his drug use raise questions about his reliability and trustworthiness as well as his ability or willingness to comply with laws, rules, and regulations. Additionally, please note that the drug involvement guideline applies to Federal laws such as the Controlled Substance Act of 1970 and not state or local government laws which may differ.

When making a security eligibility determination, remember that an investigative file may have multiple adjudicative concerns. This training Short focused on National Adjudicative Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse.

For more information on the other Adjudicative Guidelines, please see the other Shorts developed by CDSE. To review Guideline H: Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse, click the Job Aid button.