

Student Guide

Guideline I: Psychological Conditions

Objective	To help the learner identify Psychological Conditions 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 Martin Davis. He is a 38-year old attorney employed by a U.S. Government contractor. Martin recently acquired additional responsibilities within his company that require Top Secret eligibility and access. Martin submitted the required paperwork to initiate his security background investigation through his security office.

Now, your task is to review Martin'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 I: Psychological Conditions.

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 I: Psychological Conditions, states that certain emotional, mental, and personality conditions can impair judgment, reliability, or trustworthiness. A formal diagnosis of a disorder is not required for there to be a concern under this guideline. A duly qualified mental health professional (e.g., clinical psychologist or psychiatrist) employed by, or acceptable to and approved by the U.S. Government, should be consulted when evaluating potentially disqualifying and mitigating information under this guideline and an opinion, including prognosis, should be sought. No negative inference concerning the standards in this guideline may be raised solely on the basis of mental health counseling..

While reviewing Martin's investigative file, you read that he was admitted to the hospital for psychiatric evaluation.

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

(File folder information.)

Martin Davis: Investigative File

- Criminal Records revealed police were called to Mr. and Mrs. Davis's residence approximately 11 months ago for a domestic disturbance; a description of the disturbance was included in the record.
- During a phone conversation with his wife, Martin learned she had removed his prescription sleep medication from the house. He became extremely upset, and she called the police fearing he would hurt himself. Martin's wife explained she wanted to keep the medication out of the house because she was afraid he might overdose. She described his behavior as becoming increasingly paranoid. He believed he was being followed and was under government investigation.
- The police took him into custody and a psychiatric evaluation was performed at the hospital. No formal charges were filed.
- Hospital records revealed the following: the hospital psychiatrist diagnosed Martin with Psychosis Not Otherwise Specified, prescribed daily medication and referred him to mental health counseling.
- Subsequently, he was diagnosed with "Paranoid Personality Disorder," a chronic condition that results in distorted judgment. The evaluation indicated that Martin's condition

required daily medication and mental health counseling. The doctor also noted that the condition affects Martin at home and at work.

The evaluation also noted that Martin is not taking his medication or seeing a mental health professional.

Screen 5

Does the information in Martin's file raise a valid security concern under Guideline I: Psychological Conditions?

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

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 6

Martin's mental health 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 Martin's case?

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

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 7

The information from Martin's background investigation raised a concern under Guideline I: Psychological Conditions.

However, this concern cannot be mitigated. Martin's illness is ongoing and characterized by distorted judgment. The fact that he is not taking his medication or receiving mental health counseling demonstrates a condition that can impair judgment, reliability and trustworthiness and adversely affect his ability to protect classified information.

Even though we cannot mitigate the security concern under Guideline I: Psychological Conditions, his case still needs to be adjudicated against all the Adjudicative Guidelines.

For more information on the other Adjudicative Guidelines, please see the other Shorts developed by CDSE.

To review Guideline I: Psychological Conditions click the Job Aid button.