

Student Guide

Guideline L: Outside Activities

Objective	To help the learner identify Outside Activities 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 Tameka Considine. She is a 51-year old network security engineer who recently accepted a position with a DoD Agency.

The position is contingent upon the granting of Top Secret eligibility based on the adjudication of a personnel security investigation.

Tameka submitted the required paperwork to initiate her security background investigation.

Now, your task is to review Tameka’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 L: Outside Activities.

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 L: Outside Activities states that involvement in certain types of outside employment or activities is of security concern if it poses a conflict of interest with an individual's security responsibilities and could create an increased risk of unauthorized disclosure of classified or sensitive information.

While reviewing Tameka's investigative file, you read that she was a regular contributing writer for a Canadian magazine.

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

Tameka Considine: Investigative File

(File folder information.)

- During the subject interview, Tameka acknowledged that as listed on her security form, for the past four years she has contributed quarterly to a Canadian magazine on the vulnerabilities of government and industry computer systems. She was monetarily compensated for these articles.
- She provided details regarding the content of the articles and stated that her last article was published approximately three months ago.
- Tameka stated that she had been advised by the agency's security office that her employment with the Canadian magazine posed a potential conflict of interest and/or security concern. Tameka stated that she has terminated employment with the Canadian company.

Screen 5

Does the information in Tameka's file raise a valid security concern under Guideline L: Outside Activities?

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

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 6

Tameka's employment as a contributing writer for the Canadian magazine 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 Tameka's case?

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

Then click on the Submit button.

Screen 7

The information from Tameka's background investigation raised a concern under Guideline L: Outside Activities.

However, this security concern is mitigated by Tameka's decision to terminate her employment with the Canadian magazine after accepting the position, thus avoiding a potential conflict of interest.

But this does not mean she will automatically receive Top Secret eligibility. Her case needs to be adjudicated against all the adjudicative guidelines before a final eligibility decision can be made.

This training Short focused on Adjudicative Guideline L: Outside Activities.

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

To review Guideline L: Outside Activities click the Job Aid button.