

## Student Guide

### Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption

Objective	To help the learner identify Alcohol Consumption 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 Wayne Zhang. He is a 42 year old Geospatial Analyst employed by the U. S. government. Recently, he was selected for a new contract position requiring Top Secret eligibility and access. Wayne submitted the required paperwork to initiate his security background investigation through his security office.

Now, your task is to review Wayne's file and make an eligibility determination. Please note that other adjudicative guidelines may apply. In this case you will focus only on Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption.

#### 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 G: Alcohol Consumption, states that excessive alcohol consumption often leads to the exercise of questionable judgment or the failure to control impulses, and can raise questions about an individual's reliability and trustworthiness.

When reviewing Wayne's investigative file, you read that he enrolled in an alcohol treatment program 18 months ago.

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

#### Wayne Zhang: Investigative File

- Wayne's SF-86 revealed his alcohol related treatment. His investigation record revealed that he had two separate charges for "disturbing the peace" which were alcohol related:
  - Wayne's 1<sup>st</sup> charge occurred 8 months ago. While he and his family were having a party, the police were called by a neighbor who witnessed Wayne intoxicated and yelling on his front lawn.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> charge occurred the following weekend when the neighbor was confronted by Wayne saying that it wasn't anyone's business what he does at his own home. The police were called again.
- The incident reports reflect that Wayne was intoxicated. He was issued a ticket for disturbing the peace for both incidents, and was required to pay a fine. All fines were paid.
- During the subject interview portion of the Tier 5 investigation, Wayne stated:
  - He self-referred himself for alcohol treatment after suffering a blackout approximately 18 months ago.
  - He was diagnosed by a Dr. Beams with alcohol use disorder, and required to complete inpatient counseling along with aftercare requirements.
  - He completed the inpatient counseling and enrolled in Alcohol Anonymous (AA) as an aftercare program.
  - He admitted to the two alcohol related incidents and failed to list them on the SF86 because they were minor and he was only issued tickets.
  - He acknowledges that he now controls his drinking, and consumes only on holidays and special occasions.

He stated he doesn't need to abstain from alcohol because when he wants to he can easily control his drinking.

### **Screen 5**

Does the information in Wayne's file raise a valid security concern under Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption? Click on the file folder to review the file and select the disqualifier(s) that apply to Wayne's case.

Then click on the Submit button.

### **Screen 6**

Wayne's diagnosis alcohol use disorder 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 Wayne's case?

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

Then click on the Submit button.

### **Screen 7**

The information from Wayne's background investigation raised concerns under Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption.

Wayne was diagnosed with alcohol use disorder and although he self-enrolled in an alcohol treatment program, he admits that he still consumes alcoholic beverages. Wayne partially mitigated the security concern by successfully completing the program and enrolling in aftercare, but his continued use of alcohol after being diagnosed as alcohol dependent clearly shows a relapse, reveals questionable judgment, and raises concerns about his reliability and trustworthiness.

Alcohol Consumption disqualifying conditions cannot be mitigated in this case and the information is sufficient to warrant an adverse eligibility determination.

When making a security eligibility determination, remember that an investigative file may have multiple adjudicative concerns. This Security Training Short focuses only on Adjudicative Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption.

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

To review Guideline G: Alcohol Consumption conditions of concern and mitigation, click on the Job Aid button.