

KEYWORD: Guideline F

DIGEST: Applicant's statement lacks sufficient specificity for the Board to address the assignment of error. Adverse decision affirmed.

CASENO: 16-00598.a1

DATE: 03/08/2018

DATE: March 08, 2018

In Re:	)	
	)	
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	)	
Applicant for Security Clearance	)	

**APPEAL BOARD DECISION**

**APPEARANCES**

**FOR GOVERNMENT**

James B. Norman, Esq., Chief Department Counsel

**FOR APPLICANT**

*Pro se*

The Department of Defense (DoD) declined to grant Applicant a security clearance. On August 9, 2016, DoD issued a statement of reasons (SOR) advising Applicant of the basis for that decision—security concerns raised under Guideline F (Financial Considerations) of Department of Defense Directive 5220.6 (Jan. 2, 1992, as amended) (Directive). Applicant requested a decision on the written record. On December 1, 2017, after considering the record, Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals (DOHA) Administrative Judge Marc E. Curry denied Applicant’s request for a security clearance. Applicant appealed pursuant to the Directive ¶¶ E3.1.28 and E3.1.30.

Applicant requested that his case be decided on the written record and then did not respond to the government’s File of Relevant Material (FORM). In his appeal brief, Applicant states only that “. . . denial of [his] security clearance is wrong due to an error in the investigation of some of [his] debts.” Applicant’s statement lacks sufficient specificity for the Board to address the assignment of error. *See, e.g.*, ISCR Case No. 14-05920 at 3 (App. Bd. Jan.8, 2016). Additionally, the Board has no authority to rule on the manner in which officials conduct clearance investigations. *See, e.g.*, ISCR Case No. 14-04186 at 4 (App. Bd. Oct. 28, 2015).

The Board does not review a case *de novo*. Its authority to review a case is limited to cases in which the appealing party has alleged the Judge committed harmful error. *See, e.g.*, ISCR Case No. 15-04736 at 2 (App. Bd. Feb. 12, 2018). Applicant has not made an allegation of harmful error on the part of the Judge. Therefore, the decision of the Judge is AFFIRMED.

Signed: Michael Ra’anan  
Michael Ra’anan  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board

Signed: James F. Duffy  
James F. Duffy  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board

Signed: William S. Fields  
William S. Fields  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board