In the matter of:)
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Applicant for Security Clearance)

Date: August 29, 2022

ISCR Case No. 21-02525

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 December 16, 2021, 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 July 15, 2022, after the record closed, Administrative Judge Braden M. Murphy denied Applicant's request for a security clearance. Applicant appealed pursuant to Directive ¶ E3.1.28 and E3.1.30.

The SOR alleged that Applicant had 12 delinquent debts. In answering the SOR, Applicant admitted the allegations, noting that several smaller accounts had been paid off. He did not submit a response to Department Counsel's File of Relevant Material. The Judge found for Applicant on six smaller debts and against Applicant on the remaining six, which totaled over \$38,000.

On appeal, Applicant makes no assertion of harmful error on the part of the Judge. Instead, he requests reconsideration of the Judge's decision and provides additional information about the circumstances that led to his financial issues and his efforts to resolve them. The Appeal Board does not review cases *de novo* and is prohibited from considering new evidence on appeal. Directive E3.1.29. The Board's authority to review a case is limited to cases in which the appealing party has alleged the Judge committed harmful error. Because Applicant has not made such an allegation of error, the decision of the Judge denying Applicant a security clearance is sustainable.

Order

The Decision is **AFFIRMED**.

<u>Signed: James F. Duffy</u> James F. Duffy Administrative Judge Chairperson, Appeal Board

<u>Signed: Jennifer I. Goldstein</u> Jennifer I. Goldstein Administrative Judge Member, Appeal Board

<u>Signed: Moira Modzelewski</u> Moira Modzelewski Administrative Judge Member, Appeal Board