

KEYWORD: Guideline F

DIGEST: Applicant’s appeal brief raises no allegation of harmful error on the part of the Judge. Adverse decision affirmed.

CASENO: 17-01891.a1

DATE: 05/21/2018

DATE: May 21, 2018

In Re:

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Applicant for Security Clearance

ISCR Case No.17-01891

**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 June 7, 2017, 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 March 9, 2018, after considering the record, Administrative Judge Philip J. Katauskas denied Applicant’s request for a security clearance. Applicant appealed pursuant to Directive ¶¶ E3.1.28 and E3.1.30.

Applicant’s appeal brief raises no allegation of harmful error on the part of the Judge. Rather, it contains a narrative statement about the current status of her debts and her efforts to resolve them. It also contains new evidence that the Appeal Board cannot consider. Directive ¶ E3.1.29. Additionally, Applicant noted that losing her security clearance will make it harder to resolve her debts. The adverse impact that an unfavorable decision may have on an applicant is not a relevant or material consideration in evaluating security clearance eligibility. *See, e.g.*, ISCR Case No. 14-04202 at 4 (App. Bd. Dec. 24, 2015).

The Board does not review cases *de novo*. The Appeal 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 **AFFIRMED**.

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

Signed: Charles C. Hale  
Charles C. Hale  
Administrative Judge  
Member, Appeal Board

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