



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEFENSE OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS**



In the matter of:	)	
	)	
	)	ISCR Case No. 23-01338
	)	
Applicant for Security Clearance	)	

**Appearances**

For Government: Tara Karoian, Esq., Department Counsel  
For Applicant: *Pro se*

10/11/2024

**Decision**

LOUGHRAN, Edward W., Administrative Judge:

On December 27, 2023, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a Statement of Reasons to Applicant detailing security concerns under Guidelines G (alcohol consumption) and I (psychological conditions).<sup>1</sup> Applicant responded to the SOR on January 3, 2024, and requested a hearing before an administrative judge. The case was assigned to me on July 25, 2024. The hearing convened as scheduled on September 26, 2024. On October 3, 2024, I proposed to the parties that this case was appropriate for a summary disposition in Applicant’s favor. Department Counsel did not object.

Applicant is a 48-year-old employee of a defense contractor. She has worked for her current employer since 2020. She earned a bachelor’s degree in 2009. She is divorced with two adult children.

Applicant has a history of mental health issues and alcohol problems. She was hospitalized in 2015 after drinking heavily, followed by inpatient treatment. She was admitted again in 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021. Her past diagnoses include alcohol use

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<sup>1</sup> This case is adjudicated under Executive Order (EO) 10865, Safeguarding Classified Information within Industry (February 20, 1960), as amended; DoD Directive 5220.6, Defense Industrial Personnel Security Clearance Review Program (January 2, 1992), as amended (Directive); and the adjudicative Guidelines (AG), which became effective on June 8, 2017.

disorder and major depressive disorder. She was evaluated at the DoD's request by a licensed psychologist and diagnosed with alcohol use disorder, mild, in sustained remission.

It took time, but Applicant came to realize that she has an alcohol addiction. She has benefitted from treatment and therapy. She has been sober since October 2022 and plans to stay that way for the rest of her life. She continues to attend therapy.

The disqualifying conditions under AG ¶¶ 22(a), 22(c), 22(d), 28(a), 28(b), and 28(c) have been raised by the evidence. However, I find evidence of successful rehabilitation, and that Applicant has demonstrated a clear and established pattern of abstinence. Her alcohol problems and mental health conditions are under control and have a low probability of recurrence or exacerbation; she no longer shows indications of emotional instability; and there is no indication of a current problem. The mitigating conditions under AG ¶¶ 23(a), 23(b), 29(a), and 29(e) are applicable.

The concerns over Applicant's alcohol abuse and mental health issues do not create doubt about her current reliability, trustworthiness, good judgment, and ability to protect classified information. In reaching this conclusion, I weighed the evidence as a whole and considered if the favorable evidence outweighed the unfavorable evidence. I also gave due consideration to the whole-person concept. Accordingly, I conclude that she met her ultimate burden of persuasion to show that it is clearly consistent with the national interest to grant her eligibility for access to classified information. This case is decided for Applicant.

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Edward W. Loughran  
Administrative Judge