



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



In the matter of:	)	
	)	
[REDACTED]	)	ISCR Case No. 15-01147
	)	
Applicant for Security Clearance	)	

**Appearances**

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

01/03/2017

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**Decision**

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HESS, Stephanie C., Administrative Judge:

On November 26, 2015, the Department of Defense (DOD) Consolidated Adjudications Facility (CAF) sent Applicant a Statement of Reasons (SOR) alleging concerns under the financial considerations guideline.<sup>1</sup> Applicant answered the SOR and requested a hearing to establish her eligibility for access to classified information.

On July 28, 2016, I convened a hearing. After I received the transcript and the record closed, I reviewed the record in its entirety. I then provided written notice to the parties of my intent to resolve the case through a summary disposition in Applicant's favor. Department Counsel indicated that the Government had no objections. (See Appellate Exhibit I.)

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<sup>1</sup> This action was taken under Executive Order (E.O.) 10865, *Safeguarding Classified Information within Industry* (February 20, 1960), as amended; Department of Defense Directive 5220.6, *Defense Industrial Personnel Security Clearance Review Program* (January 2, 1992), as amended (Directive); and the Adjudicative Guidelines (AG) implemented by the Department of Defense on September 1, 2006.

Applicant's past financial problems were primarily attributable to matters beyond her control. Specifically, Applicant took out multiple student loans for college, but following graduation was only able to find temporary jobs. This underemployment resulted in her defaulting on her student loans and incurring several other delinquent debts. She has since paid off one large student loan, consolidated and become current on the other loans, successfully disputed several debts, and paid off or is resolving the remaining SOR debts. As of the close of the record, Applicant had satisfied or otherwise resolved all the SOR debts, except the debt listed in SOR ¶ 1.o. She has contacted this creditor to establish a repayment plan. She is current on her existing financial obligations, lives within her means, and regularly contributes to her 401 (k) account and a savings account.

Department Counsel presented sufficient evidence to establish the facts alleged in the SOR under Guideline F. I conclude that Applicant presented sufficient evidence to explain, extenuate, or mitigate the facts admitted by Applicant or proven by Department Counsel. In particular, I conclude that the security concerns are resolved under mitigating conditions AG ¶¶ 20(a) through 20(e).

Applicant's history of financial problems does 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 or *vice versa*. I also gave due consideration to the whole-person concept. Accordingly, I conclude that Applicant met her burden of persuasion to show that it is clearly consistent with the national interest to grant her eligibility for access to classified information. Applicant's request for a security clearance is granted.

Stephanie C. Hess  
Administrative Judge