





SPREAD THE TRUTH

ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH AND YOUR SECURITY CLEARANCE

Have you hesitated to seek care due to fear that doing so will jeopardize your clearance eligibility or career? Here is what you should know.

THE TRUTH

- 
Standard Form 86 (SF-86)
 "Questionnaire for National Security Positions" is used to evaluate individuals under consideration for security clearances. SF-86 Question 21 asks if you have received any treatment for mental health conditions.
- 
Less than 1% of security clearance denials and revocations involve psychological health concerns.
- 
 Seeking help to promote personal wellness and recovery is a sign of strength and may favorably impact a person's security clearance eligibility.
- 
 Not all psychological health treatment is required to be reported when answering Question 21.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO REPORT:

- 
 Counseling related to adjustments from service in a military combat environment
- 
 Marital or family concerns (not related to violence by the service member)
- 
 Grief counseling
- 
 Counseling related to being a victim of sexual assault

Remember, any psychological health care you report when answering Question 21 is protected by privacy rights. The SF-86 form screens a candidate's ability to protect classified information. A personnel security investigator can only ask a healthcare provider if the Sailor's mental health concern could impair their judgement or reliability to safeguard classified information. **If the answer is 'no' then no additional questions are authorized.**

SEEKING HELP IS A SIGN OF STRENGTH, AND HELP IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

For confidential, 24/7 support, contact the **Military Crisis Line at 988, press 1** or visit www.militarycrisisline.net.

Service members have the right to report any suspected privacy violations regarding unauthorized questioning pertaining to psychological health care to the Defense Department Inspector General Hotline at 800-424-9098.

For more information, visit the **Defense Suicide Prevention Office** at www.dspo.mil.

A product of Navy Suicide Prevention Branch, OPNAV N170B. Visit www.suicide.navy.mil for additional Navy Suicide Prevention resources.

