



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Washington, DC 20415

Federal Investigative
Services Division

Federal Investigations Notice

Notice No. 08-01

Date: May 1, 2008

SUBJECT: Completing Question 21 on the Standard Form (SF) 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions

Effective immediately, agencies will provide the attached direction to all persons completing the Standard Form 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions. This directs that the current Mental Health question language be overridden with the attachment language until issued as part of the updated SF86 this fall.

The attached revision to the SF86 Mental Health question (Question 21), was established and approved in February 2008, through coordination with the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense (DoD). This was done with the strong advocacy of the DoD in conjunction with the overall revision of the SF86, and was necessitated by DoD study demonstrating that persons returning from combat often have war-related anxieties, depression and post-traumatic stress. Many do not seek treatment out of concern for their career or their security clearance. The revision directs applicants to answer "No" to questions regarding mental health treatment if the treatment was related to adjustment from service in a military combat environment.

The Secretary of Defense has separately implemented the revised Question 21 language for all DoD components, however, this guidance cannot be limited to DoD military service members and DoD civilians. Persons returning from combat environments often leave the DoD for positions in other Federal Government agencies. The need to encourage treatment remains necessary regardless of the Federal Government assignment, and the need for standardized response to SF86 questions is necessary to ensure reciprocity.

Agencies are reminded that the current investigative practices which require *no* investigative coverage of negative responses to Question 21 will continue with the revised question language. The attached revised Question 21 Mental Health language will be considered to override the pre-existing 1995 SF86 question language.


for Kathy L. Dillaman
Associate Director
Federal Investigative Services Division

Attachment: Director Springer Memorandum to All Persons Completing the SF86 Questionnaire for National Security Positions

Inquiries:	OPM-FIPC, Agency Liaison Group, (703) 603-0442
Code:	736, Personnel Investigations
Distribution:	SOIs/SONs
Notice Expires:	With the incorporation of the revised Question 21 language in the SF86



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

May 1, 2008

TO: All Persons Completing the Standard Form (SF) 86
Questionnaire for National Security Positions

FROM: Linda M. Springer
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LMS", written over a horizontal line.

SUBJECT: Revision of the Standard Form (SF) 86

Until the 2008 Revision of the Standard Form (SF) 86 Questionnaire for National Security Positions is issued this fall, all persons completing the form will respond to Question 21 using revised language, whether completing the paper copy SF86 or the Electronic Questionnaires for Investigations Processing (e-Qip) format. The revised Question 21 language is as follows:

Mental health counseling in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny a clearance.

In the last 7 years, have you consulted with a health care professional regarding an emotional or mental health condition or were you hospitalized for such a condition?

Answer "No" if the counseling was for any of the following reasons and was not court-ordered:

- ***strictly marital, family or grief not related to violence by you; or***
- ***strictly related to adjustments from service in a military combat environment.***

If you answered "Yes," indicate who conducted the treatment and/or counseling, provide the following information, and sign the Authorization for Release of Medical Information Pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

The SF86, 1995 version of Question 21, "Your Medical Record," provides a place for entering the dates of treatment and the name and address of the therapist or doctor. If you answer the above question "Yes," provide the dates of treatment and the name and address of the therapist or doctor as solicited.