



FAQ's on the Security Clearance Process

What is a security clearance?

A national security clearance (eligibility for access) is a determination made by the U.S. Government that a person is eligible for access to classified national security information up to a certain level, such as SECRET or TOP SECRET. Eligibility is a determination that a person is able and willing to safeguard classified national security information. Eligibility for access is based on the favorable adjudication of a national security background investigation. Background investigations are conducted to gather information to determine whether you are reliable, trustworthy, of good character, and loyal to the U.S.. You must be a U.S. Citizen.

There are three types of clearances:

- CONFIDENTIAL
- SECRET
- TOP SECRET

Is a Public Trust the same as a Security Clearance?

A Public Trust Clearance or Public Trust Security Clearance is not a traditional security clearance; it is a background investigation conducted by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish the trustworthiness and reliability of an individual handling sensitive but unclassified federal information.

When may an individual be processed for a security clearance?

An individual may be processed for a personnel security clearance when employed by a cleared contractor in a job requiring access to classified information.

Can I obtain a security clearance on my own?

Individuals cannot apply for a personnel security clearance application on their own. Rather, Two Six Technologies determines whether an employee will require access to classified information in performance of tasks or services related to the fulfillment of a classified contract. Once the determination is made, the individual may be processed for a security clearance. Two Six Technologies determines the positions that require a security clearance, as well as the level required, based upon the duties and responsibilities of each position.

What kind of investigation is conducted for a security clearance?

The kind, or type, of investigation conducted depends on the access level that the individual is required to have to perform his or her official duties. For access to CONFIDENTIAL or SECRET information, a National Agency Check with Local Agency Checks and Credit Check (NACLC) is completed. For access to TOP SECRET or Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) information, a Single Scope Background Investigation (SSBI) is required which includes interviews with friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

What is the process for Obtaining a Security Clearance?

Once identified for a position that requires a security clearance, the individual will receive an email from the Two Six Technologies Security team inviting the individual to submit an SF-86 via the e-App process. Once the SF-86 is complete and submitted to Security, the applicant will be scheduled to complete your fingerprints in the security office or at a local police station. To better understand the type of information you will be required to provide:

https://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf86.pdf

What is an Interim Clearance and when will it be issued?

An interim determination will be made once the investigation is scheduled and advanced products are returned by the Investigation Service Provider (ISP). DoD policy requires the following for an Interim Secret to be granted:

- Favorable review of the SF-86
- Favorable fingerprint check
- Proof of U.S. Citizenship
- Favorable review of local records, if applicable

Why would I be denied a security clearance?

The adjudication process is an examination of a sufficient period of a person's life to make an affirmative determination that the person is an acceptable security risk. Eligibility for access to classified information is predicated upon the individual meeting these personnel security guidelines. The adjudication process is the careful weighing of a number of variables known as the "whole-person" concept. All available, reliable information about the person, past and present, favorable and unfavorable, is considered in reaching a clearance determination. When an individual's life history shows evidence of unreliability or untrustworthiness, questions arise whether the individual can be relied on and trusted to exercise the responsibility necessary for working in a secure environment where protection of classified information is paramount.

What are the Adjudicative Guidelines?

Final determination on your eligibility for access is the responsibility of the Government. Eligibility for access is granted only when the facts and circumstances indicate that access to classified information is consistent with the national security interests of the U.S..

- Allegiance to the U.S.
- Foreign Influence
- Foreign Preference
- Sexual Behavior
- Personal Conduct
- Financial Considerations
- Alcohol Consumption
- Drug Involvement and Substance Misuse
- Psychological Conditions
- Criminal Conduct
- Handling Protected Information
- Outside Activities

What is Continuous Vetting (CV)?

Continuous Vetting (CV) is an ongoing screening process to review the background of an individual who is assigned to a sensitive position or has access to classified information. CV leverages automated record checks and applies business rules (aligned to the Federal Investigative Standards) to assist in the ongoing assessment of an individual's continued eligibility.



Can you get a clearance if you use marijuana?

Marijuana use (medical and recreational) remains illegal at the federal level. While a small amount of recreational use prior to applying for a clearance may be mitigated by legality at the state level or medical purposes, marijuana remains a controlled substance and its use is prohibited while possessing a clearance.

Do I need to worry about my social networking?

Investigators will look at your profile information, your friends, the organizations you support, and the people who follow you. For more information, please refer to: <https://news.clearancejobs.com/2016/05/11/5-tips-safer-social-networking-security-clearance-holders/>

Should I be concerned about my finances?

When you apply for your security clearance, make sure you understand how your debt could impact your ability to keep/maintain your clearance. Take proactive steps to fix your finances and maintain complete documentation of actions taken or how you plan to resolve. Ensure you are not delinquent on filing or paying your taxes.

For additional information on the security clearance process, please refer to:
<https://news.clearancejobs.com/category/security-clearance/>

