

SPREAD *the* TRUTH

Psychological Health Treatment and SF86 Question 21

Standard Form 86 [SF86] "Questionnaire for National Security Positions" is used to evaluate individuals under consideration for Confidential, Secret, and Top Secret security clearances. One of the many reasons service members choose not to seek help for psychological health concerns is fear that doing so will jeopardize their clearance eligibility and careers. Here are the facts about answering Question 21:

It's okay to speak up when you're down

Truth



Less than one percent of security clearance denials and revocations involve psychological health concerns.

Truth



Seeking help to promote personal wellness and recovery may favorably impact a person's security clearance eligibility.

Truth



Not all psychological health treatment is required to be reported when answering Question 21.

Truth



Any psychological health care you report when answering Question 21 is protected by privacy rights.

What does NOT need to be reported when answering Question 21:

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

Did You Know?

Any psychological health care a service member reports when answering SF86 Question 21 is protected by privacy rights. A personnel security investigator can only initially ask a health care provider if the service member is coping with a concern that could impair his or her judgement or reliability to safeguard classified information.

If the answer is "no," 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 800-273-TALK or visit www.veteranscrisisline.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.suicideoutreach.org.

A product of Navy Suicide Prevention Branch, OPNAV N171. Visit www.suicide.navy.mil for additional Navy Suicide Prevention resources.