

7. To be entitled to a hearing the applicant must submit within twenty (20) days after receipt of the Statement of Reasons a detailed written answer under oath or affirmation which shall admit or deny specifically each allegation and each supporting fact contained in the Statement of Reasons. A general denial or other similar answer is not sufficient. The answer must be sufficiently responsive to permit the Department of Defense to determine the issues that are controverted. Where an applicant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of an allegation contained in the Statement of Reasons, he may, after setting out fully the circumstances so state, and it may have the effect of a denial, upon a showing that he has made reasonable inquiries as to the matters alleged and has been unable to obtain the requisite information or knowledge. If the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration), or his designee, finds that the applicant's answer does not meet the above requirements, he shall suspend any security clearance then in effect, and shall discontinue further proceedings.
8. An applicant who answers the Statement of Reasons as prescribed above is entitled to a hearing before an Examiner at which he may be represented by counsel of his own choosing, and for which he shall have a reasonable time to prepare. At that hearing he may present evidence in his own behalf and may cross-examine adverse witnesses either orally or in writing as hereinafter provided.
9. Where the applicant answers the Statement of Reasons but does not request a hearing, the case will be assigned to one of the Examiners for final determination based upon all available information including the applicant's answer.