DCSA is committed to increasing the efficiency of the security clearance investigation process.

The Standard Form 86 “Questionnaire for National Security Positions” (SF-86) is a background investigation form you need to fill out for a security clearance. The information provided on this form is used to determine whether you are reliable, trustworthy, of good conduct and character, and loyal to the U.S.

### Key Timeframes
Some questions can reach back up to seven or 10 years, while others are “have you EVER” questions.

- **Residential History**: List the addresses of your past and present residences going back 10 years.
- **Employment**: List past employment information going back 10 years.
- **Education**: List educational institutions and dates of your attendance going back 10 years. Do not include certificate programs or military training. List any degrees/diplomas earned more than 10 years ago.
- **People Who Know You Well**: List contact information for three personal references going back seven years.

### TIPS FOR FILLING OUT THE FORM

- **Remove Gaps**: Ensure there are no gaps in history or missing identifying data in your questionnaire.
- **Update or Delete Old Information**: If you've previously completed a background investigation questionnaire (like the SF-85), make sure the information in the system is updated by deleting any old or irrelevant entries.
- **Be Honest**: Do not omit information, such as illegal drug activity or arrests. It’s always better to be honest and provide truthful answers than misleading information.

### Questions?
Contact your security manager, facility security officer, recruiter, or HR office. For more information go to: [https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/](https://www.dcsa.mil/mc/pv/)

When in doubt, fill it out.