United States Office of Personnel Management Investigations Service

Requesting **OPM**Personnel Investigations

Requesting OPM Personnel Investigations







We designed this issuance for persons who have a role in the investigative process, either submitting the investigative papers to the Office of Personnel Management, or receiving the completed investigation. It provides information about our case processing policies and procedures.

It should help you ensure that the investigative forms you submit are accurate and complete, and that your requested investigation is not delayed. It provides instructions for using these forms:

- SF 85, Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions
- SF 85P, Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions
- SF 86, Questionnaire for National Security Positions

CONTENTS	
TOPIC	PAGE
Terms & Forms Referred to in this Booklet	3
OPM Investigations Service Contact Points	4
(Addresses, Telephone Numbers, Web Sites, and email address)	
Introduction	5
Submitting Office Procedures	6
Requesting Investigations	6
Forms Required to Request an Investigation (Chart)	6
Investigative Forms (Other than SF Questionnaires)	7
Submitting Office Number (SON)	9
Case Status Check	9
Important Items for the SF Questionnaires	10
Subject-Completed Items on the SF Questionnaires (Chart)	11
Instructions for Completing the SF 85 "Agency Use Only" Block	12
SF 85 BlocksA, B, C, D, E	12
F, G, H, I, J, K	13
Instructions for Completing the SF 85P & SF 86 "Agency Use Only" Block	15
SF 85P & SF 86 BlocksA	15
В	16
C	18
D, E, F, G	19
H, I, J, K, L	20
M, N, O, P	21
Security Office Procedures	22
Processing Investigations	22
Security Office Identifier (SOI)	22
Case Closing Transmittal (CCT)	22
Investigation Notices	22
OPM Investigations Service Forms	23
Security/Suitability Investigations Index (SII) and Case Inquiries	24
Case Inquiries	24
Automated Linkage With OPM	25
Fingerprinting Information	25
Additional Information	27
ZIP Code Chart	29

TERMS and FORMS REFERRED TO IN THIS BOOKLET.....

AKA	
	Case Closing TransmittalCertification of Investigation
DOB	Date Of Birth
	Fingerprint Chart for Contractor PositionFederal Investigations Notice (with a Fiscal Year and Number; e.g., FIN 98-04)
FIPC 45A	Request to Agency for new Fingerprint ChartUnacceptable Case Notice
	Certification of Amended Investigative Form
	Agency Information for Background InvestigationsInvestigations Service
OF 510 OF 612 OFI 79	Declaration for Federal EmploymentApplying For A Federal JobOptional Application For Federal EmploymentNotice of Personnel InvestigationReport of Agency Adjudicative Action on an OPM Personnel Investigation
OFI Form 86A	Request for Search of OPM RecordsRequest for Determination or AdvisoryRequest for Special Agreement Check
	(by agreement with OPM)Official Personnel Folder
	Personnel Investigations Processing SystemSecurity Office Identifier (SOI) Authorization &
PIPS 12	Amendment FormSubmitting Office Number (SON) Authorization & Amendment Form
POB	Place Of Birth
SF 85	Questionnaire for Non-Sensitive Positions (QNSP)
	Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions (QPTP)
	Supplemental Questionnaire for Selected Positions uestionnaire for National Security Positions (QSP)
	on Sheet for Questionnaires SF 86, SF 85P, SF 85
SF 87	Fingerprint Chart for Federal Position
	Application for Federal Employment (Optional Use)
	Submitting Office Number (Submitting Office)
	Social Security Number

U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATIONS SERVICE

CONTACT POINTS

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), Investigations Service (IS), Federal Investigations Processing Center (FIPC) receives all requests for investigation, processes the requests through an automated system, and deals with all case-related and operational questions from agencies.

All forms requesting investigations, and correspondence about investigation processing or operational matters, should be mailed to:

OPM-FIPC P.O. Box 618 BOYERS, PA 16018-0618

For deliveries that require a street address (Express Mail, UPS, etc.), use this address:

OPM-FIPC
P.O. Box 618, 1137 Branchton Road
BOYERS, PA 16018-0618

For case status and other case-related information (SII searches, file requests, questions about forms, etc.), call FIPC Telephone Liaison at 724–794–5228.

To contact a specific person or office at FIPC, call 724–794–5612.

OPM-FIPC hours of operation: 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Eastern Time)



For additional information concerning our Investigations Service, visit our Web Page at: www.opm.gov/extra/investigate. You will not be able to gain access to our site through the OPM site (www.opm.gov), so please bookmark the IS site and take advantage of the information provided. We have an email group that we use to inform security professionals and human resource professionals of updates to our program and Internet site. If you want to be added, send your name, email address, agency name and Security Office Identifier or Submitting Office Number to: fipc@opm.gov.



For questions regarding investigative policy, information regarding agency access to the automated system, or to reach your agency's Security Appraisal/Assistance Officer, write to us at **Office of Personnel Management, Room 5416, 1900 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20415-4000**. Call 202–606–1042; or Fax 202–606–2390.

INTRODUCTION

OPM AUTOMATED PROCESSING

Submitting Offices send completed forms to OPM-FIPC for processing. Then...

1. RECEIVING and SCREENING.

We screen requests for investigation (case papers) to ensure that you have provided **ALL** required information. If screening reveals deficiencies that will delay investigation, then...

- Telephone contact is made to the Requesting Official shown on the investigative form. If we cannot make contact, or the requested data is not supplied, then...
- Case papers are returned to the Submitting Office with a notice indicating why we did not process
 the request and asking that necessary changes or corrections be made and that the request be
 resubmitted.

When screening reveals no deficiencies, the request moves to...

2. DATA ENTERING.

We perform computer data entry on all cases using the following information from the case papers:

Subject identifiers (Full Name, Social Security Number, Date Of Birth, Place Of Birth, other names used), background data, and agency coding.

After we enter the required data, OPM's Personnel Investigations Processing System (PIPS) automatically conducts a search of the Security/Suitability Investigations Index (SII).

3. AUTOMATED SCHEDULING.

After initial data entry, we enter other information from the case papers, based on the PIPS programmed requirements for the type of case. PIPS then...

- determines the coverage period, activities to be covered, and locations for Investigation;
- sends out inquiry forms, electronic record searches, and information for Investigators to cover;
 and
- prepares and transmits appropriate agency notices.

Coverage requirements for each identified item in a background investigation determine whether we schedule the location for personal, telephone, record, or inquiry contact. We use scannable forms to obtain coverage of items scheduled for inquiry.

4. AUTOMATED CASE TRACKING.

Whenever we enter new data, a case assignment tracking screen system automatically displays updated information on each case. We continually enter new data affecting case status as the investigation progresses.

SECTION 1.

A. SUBMITTING OFFICE PROCEDURES

REQUESTING INVESTIGATIONS

A Submitting Office is any office that requests an investigation. The Submitting Office is responsible for coding the "Agency Use Only" block of the SF 85, SF 85P, and SF 86. Coding is done only after the person to be investigated has completed other portions of the form.

It is also the responsibility of the Submitting Office to ensure that the form is complete. OPM uses automated scheduling; consequently, complete and accurate information on the SF 85, SF 85P, and SF 86 is extremely important to the overall investigative process. Investigations are scheduled using ZIP Codes and other data provided by the person completing the forms. Incorrect ZIP Codes, missing addresses, or gaps in dates, for example, may result in an incorrectly scheduled investigation and may delay completion of the case.

FORMS REQUIRED TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION

	NON-SENSITIVE POSITION	NATIONAL SECURITY, SENSITIVE POSITION	PUBLIC TRUST POSITION
NEW FEDERAL APPOINTMENT ACTION	SF 85 – original SF 87 OF 306 Application/Resume	SF 86 – original SF 87 OF 306 Application/Resume	SF 85P – original SF 87 OF 306 Application/Resume
CONTRACTOR	SF 85 – original FD 258 Limited OF 306 items*	SF 86 – original FD 258	SF 85P – original FD 258
REINVESTIGATION	SF 85 – original SF 87 (Federal Employee) Or FD 258 (Contractor) Limited OF 306 items*	SF 86 – original [Fingerprints Optional; see FIN 94-6] SF 87 (Federal Employee) Or FD 258 (Contractor)	SF 85P – original SF 85P-S – if required by Special Agreement SF 87 (Federal Employee) Or FD 258 (Contractor)
UPDATE & UPGRADE INVESTIGATION	Not Applicable	SF 86 – original SF 87 (Federal Employee) Or FD 258 (Contractor)	SF 85P – original SF 85P-S – if required by Special Agreement SF 87 (Federal Employee) Or FD 258 (Contractor)

^{*} When only the September 1994 version of the OF 306 is available, the Subject of investigation should complete items 1, 2, 7 through 12, 15 and 16a. When more recent versions of the form are used, the Subject should complete items 1, 2, 8 through 13, 16 and 17a. If the official form is not available, the specific questions may be duplicated on a separate attachment and completed by the Subject.

After the SF 85, SF 86, or SF 85P is received by OPM-FIPC, and the investigation is scheduled, the SON will receive an Investigation Scheduled Notice for placement on the temporary side of the OPF (if the person is already employed), or for retention in the security file (for applicants or contractors). Upon completion of the investigation, a Certification of Investigation is sent to the SOI which should ensure its placement on the permanent side of the OPF for all Federal employees.

INVESTIGATIVE FORMS (other than SF Questionnaires)

Application for Federal Employment. Applicants may use the OF 612, resume, or any other form to apply for Federal employment. Whichever form is used must be included with the SF request for investigation.

OF 306 - *Declaration for Federal Employment.* This form must accompany each request for investigation when the individual to be investigated is a new Federal employee or applicant for Federal employment. Also, it is to accompany all requests submitted on the SF 85.

SF 86A - Continuation Sheet for Questionnaires SF 86, SF 85P, or SF 85. This form should be used and submitted when there is insufficient space on the Standard Form 86, 85P, or 85, and the Subject has additional data required for the investigation.

SF 87 - Fingerprint Chart. One chart should be included with the request for investigation when the individual to be investigated is a Federal employee or applicant for Federal employment. **EXCEPTION:** A chart is not required if a previous investigation included a classifiable fingerprint search completed by the FBI, and the current request for investigation is submitted on an SF 86.

FD-258 - *Applicant Fingerprint Chart.* One chart should accompany each request for investigation when the individual to be investigated is a contractor (neither a Federal employee nor an applicant for Federal employment), or when agreed to by OPM-FIPC. **EXCEPTION:** *A chart is not required if a previous investigation included a classifiable fingerprint search completed by the FBI, and the current request for investigation is submitted on an SF 86.*

OFI 86A - Request for Determination or Advisory. This form is initiated by an agency Submitting Office or Examining Office when suitability issues are shown on the Standard Form and warrant referral to OPM. The OFI 86A is returned to an agency SON with an IS-Suitability Adjudication Services determination or advisory indicated.

Q. Will the original SF 85, SF 85P, or SF 86 be returned when the case is complete?

A. Yes, except for cases transmitted electronically from OPM's automated system to agency SOIs.

Q. Can the SF 85P or SF 86 be used to request a NACI for a Non-Sensitive position?

A. No, the Office of Management and Budget and OPM approved only the SF 85 for Non-Sensitive cases.

The most expedient way to get copies of the SF 85, 85P, 85P-S, 86, and 86A is by ordering online with your Government credit card via GSA Advantage at: http://www.gsaadvantage.gov/. Or, visit the website for the GSA's Federal Supply Service at: http://www.fss.gsa.gov/fssOrders.cfm. This page provides links to complete info about ordering through the MILSTRIP/FEDSTRIP system or through GSA's Customer Supply Centers. For a single copy to fill out and print on your computer, visit http://fillform.gsa.gov/.

Q. What is the SF 85P and when should this form be used?

A. The SF 85P, "Questionnaire for Public Trust Positions," is used when an investigation is needed for a position that does not involve national security or require clearance, but may be Sensitive or either Moderate or High Risk under OPM's position sensitivity designation guidelines.

Q. What is the SF 85P-S and when is it used?

A. The SF 85P-S, "Supplemental Questionnaire for Selected Positions," contains additional questions regarding drug and alcohol use and mental health. It is used only when an agency requests (and is granted) OPM approval to use it.

Q. How do agencies request OPM approval to use the SF 85P-S?

A. Agencies must request approval in writing from OPM-IS Headquarters. The letter to OPM-IS should contain a specific rationale why the agency wants to require information from individuals in response to questions on the form.

Q. When is a copy of the OF 306 (Declaration for Federal Employment) and the application or resume required with the investigation?

A. When the investigation is part of a Federal employee appointment action, a copy of the OF 306 and application/resume are required, no matter what investigative form is used. This applies to all new appointees to the competitive service, excepted service, or Senior Executive Service who must complete an OF 306 as part of the appointment process.

Q. Why is a copy of the OF 306 and application/resume required with the investigation?

A. Some activities or issues requiring investigative coverage are not on the SF 85 or 85P. For Federal employee positions, a copy of the OF 306 and application/resume are used along with the SF 85 or 85P to schedule coverage and to compare for possible falsification of answers on the forms. If submitted along with the SF 86, they are used to compare for falsification only. When submitted for Contractor positions, the OF 306 is used to schedule coverage. Since contractors are not required to use the OF 306, the individual can either submit the OF 306 (September 1994 version, completing items 1, 2, 7 through 12, 15 and 16a, or more recent versions, completing items 1, 2, 8 through 13, 16 and 17a) or address the same items, recorded word-for-word, on an attachment.

Q. When an OF 306 and application/resume are submitted with an investigative form, does the Subject need to recertify them?

A. The Subject should carefully review the answers on the OF 306 and any attached sheets, including any other application or resume materials. If any information requires correction, the Subject should make the changes, providing the updated material on additional sheets if necessary, and initial and date all changes and additions.

Q. Can an agency submit an SF 85P or SF 86 which lists only activities and information since the last background investigation?

A. For reinvestigations, the new forms may be updated to show activities from the date the investigative form from the previous investigation was signed. Activities request beginning and ending dates (e.g., residence or employment). For example, if an agency is reinvestigating an individual whose previous SF 86 was completed in December 1996, the current SF 85P or SF 86 must be completed from December 1996 to the present. All other questions and requests for information must be answered for the time frame specified for the item (e.g., the last 7 years, or ever).

Q. How recently must the SF 85, SF 85P and SF 86 have been completed?

A. These forms must be signed within 120 days of the date of submission to OPM. Submitted forms which are not within this 120 days will be delayed or returned. If no change has occurred, forms must be re-dated and initialed by the Subject.

Q. Can the SF 85 be used for contract employees?

A. Yes, if the position is Non-sensitive/Low Risk. The individual must also address the limited questions on the OF 306 (see chart on page 6, "FORMS REQUIRED TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION").

Q. If a previous background investigation was conducted with an SF 85P and the incumbent is now being considered for a national security position, what further action is required?

A. Have the incumbent complete an SF 86, then review a copy of the background investigation and decide whether additional investigation is necessary. The ANACI (the Access National Agency Check and Inquiry, for Federal employees) and NACLC (the National Agency Check with Law Check and Credit Search, for contractor employees) are the minimum required investigations for Secret or Confidential clearances.

SUBMITTING OFFICE NUMBER (SON)

Each agency office that requests investigations from OPM must have a unique 4-character SON provided by OPM-FIPC. The Submitting Office will use its SON in the appropriate block of the SF 85, SF 85P, and SF 86. Security Offices requesting investigations will use their Security Office Identifier (SOI) [see page 22]. Any office that wants to request investigations from OPM but does not have an SON must contact OPM-FIPC.

Q. How do I obtain an SON?

A. Contact FIPC-Program Services Office (PSO). Our PSO will obtain your address, contact and billing information, and verify with the Security Office that you are authorized to request investigations. The information you provide must be kept current; FIPC-PSO will provide an IS form PIPS 12 so that you can record changes and submit them to be updated in OPM's automated system.

Q. How many SONs per submitting office? How many persons can use the number to make case inquiries?

A. Submitting offices may have multiple SONs. Everyone authorized by the head of the Submitting Office can use the SON to obtain a case status check from OPM-FIPC, provided they can answer the questions asked by the Liaison Assistant.

Q. Can the SON discontinue a case?

A. Yes, discontinue requests are accepted from either the SON or the SOI. The SON should inform the SOI of discontinuation of cases other than NACI's.

Q. What information is available to the SON?

A. Current case status information and expected completion date of investigations submitted by that office.

CASE STATUS CHECK

A Submitting Office may call FIPC Telephone Liaison (724-794-5228) to obtain case status information.

Information the OPM-FIPC Liaison Assistant may ask for:

Caller's SON & other information to verify identity Subject's name & AKAs Subject's Social Security Number Subject's Place & Date of Birth OPM Case Number

Information the OPM-FIPC Liaison Assistant can give to the SON caller:

Answers to questions about case papers, fingerprints, reprints, etc. Current status of investigation

Expected completion date of investigation

Security Offices can obtain more detailed information from FIPC Telephone Liaison

Q. Should an agency refer Subjects of investigation to OPM-FIPC for case status information or to adjust case papers?

A. No; only the agency Submitting or Security Office may call OPM-FIPC with these requests.

IMPORTANT ITEMS FOR THE SF QUESTIONNAIRES

ALL information requested on these forms is essential for the expeditious scheduling and investigating of cases. Improper completion or omission can result in misscheduling and delaying the investigation. OPM-FIPC first attempts to obtain incomplete or missing information from the SON by telephone; otherwise, the case papers are returned to the agency for completion.

Amendments to qualifications, security, or suitability information must be completed personally by the Subject, and verified with the Subject's initials and date of the change. Other changes, made by agency officials, must be initialed and dated and the official who made the changes identified by SOI or SON. Agency officials may use an IS form FIPC 391 (obtainable through FIPC Telephone Liaison) to certify amended investigative forms were made consistent with the Subject's intent and made with the Subject's concurrence. This document will be included in the investigative file.

Submitted forms must contain:

- CORRECT, COMPLETE, and CURRENT information, with details provided for YES responses;
- Information that is **TYPED OR LEGIBLY PRINTED** (care should be taken so that numbers and letters are clearly formed to avoid error);
- ZIP CODES for each activity (for automated scheduling of the investigation and mailing inquiries);
- Beginning and ending MONTH and YEAR of each activity, with no time gaps or missing time frames:
- SIGNATURE (full name of the person to be investigated); and
- Completed AGENCY USE ITEMS.

Q. Will a case be processed if the Subject refuses to provide some information or changes anything on the case papers? How should an agency handle these situations?

A. The agency should have the Subject complete all information as required and should not submit incomplete case papers. If the case papers are sent to OPM-FIPC, changes or omissions of information may delay the case or require returning the papers for completion.

Q. How should the agency handle additional information received from the Subject after the investigation has been submitted to OPM?

A. Any information that indicates a major discrepancy or a security or suitability issue should be forwarded to OPM-FIPC.

Q. When the SF 85, SF 85P, or SF 86 is initially completed, or returned for necessary additions or corrections, what procedures are to be followed if amendments are made to the investigative document?

A. The Subject's dated initials must be shown on each item of information corrected or added that deals with the Subject's qualifications, security, or suitability. In rare circumstances when the Subject can not make the amendments personally, the SON can complete and submit a FIPC 391, Certification of Amended Investigative Form.

Q. What can the agency do if the Subject cannot provide Selective Service record information?

A. Give the Subject the Selective Service toll-free number (888-655-1825) so he can obtain the registration number or exemption explanation.

Q. What additional investigative services does OPM offer? How do I obtain them?

A. OPM-IS offers a variety of customized investigative services to meet agency needs and special government requirements. These include Childcare Investigations, Reimbursable Suitability Investigations, and Special Agreement Checks. Security Appraisal/Assistance Officers at IS Headquarters can answer your questions and develop written agreements to provide such services. Call OPM-IS Headquarters at 202-606-1042.

	TH Per	ESE ITEMS, ON THES RSONALLY COMPLETI	SE FORMS, MUST BE ED BY THE SUBJECT	· †:
ITEMS	SF 86	SF 85P	SF 85P-S	SF 85
Foreign Activities	17 a-d	NA	NA	NA
Foreign Countries Visited	18	19	NA	NA
Selective Service Record	20 a-b	17 a-b	NA	12 a-b
Military Record	19	NA	NA	NA
Employment Record	22	12	NA	NA
Police Record	23 a-f	20	NA	NA
Medical Record	21	NA	5	NA
Illegal Drugs	24 a-c	21 a-b	3 a-b	14
Alcohol	25	NA	4	NA
Clearance/Access Denied	26 a-b	18 a-b	NA	NA
Financial Record	27 a-d, 28 a-b	22 a-b	NA	NA
Court Actions	29	NA	NA	NA
Association Record	30 a-b	NA	NA	NA
Date of Certification	Page 9	Page 7	Page Bottom	Page 5
Date of Release	Page 10	Page 8	NA	Page 6

Other changes made by agency officials that do not pertain to the above areas, must be initialed and dated and the official identified by SOI or SON; the agency may provide a FIPC 391 certification with the case submission. These procedures are essential for the scheduling of the request; if not followed, the request will be returned to the submitting agency.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SF 85 "AGENCY USE ONLY" BLOCK

Α	Type of Investigation	02B
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Enter code 02B to request a non-sensitive NACI investigation with 75-day service.

	Extra										
В	Coverage	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	

Enter up to nine codes to obtain required extra coverage described below.

CODE EXTRA COVERAGE

- 2 Credit Search (extra charge).
- 3 Advance National Agency Check (NAC) Results.
- When a special request not covered by an agreement with OPM, or additional required or relevant information, is attached.
- A-Y Use only by agreement with OPM-FIPC.
- Z FBI User Fee exemption for specific positions. See page 31 for detailed information.

Q. Do extra coverage codes have to be in a particular order?

A. No, the codes can be entered in any order.

Q. What are the advance NAC processing procedures?

A. An advance NAC report is available for all case types by entering code 3 in Extra Coverage Block B. Generally, within 30 days of the scheduling of a case, either an advance NAC report or NAC status report (if any checks are still pending) will be sent to the SOI. The advance NAC will occur after the NAC status when pending NAC items are complete. The advance on the National Agency Check (NAC) consists of an itemized list of the NAC item results and status; no reports are furnished.

	Nature of	
C	Action Code	

If the person being investigated is a Federal employee or applicant, enter the same 3-digit code as used on the SF 52 to show the "Nature of Action" taken or to be taken for the position requiring the investigation. If the person being investigated is a contractor, enter CON. If the person is being reinvestigated, leave this block blank.

Date of	Month	Day	Year
Action		-	

Enter the effective date of the action requiring the investigation. If the action has not been taken, leave the block blank.

Geographic										
Location	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	

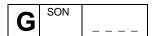
OPTIONAL: Enter the 9-digit "Worldwide Geographic Location Code" from the General Services Administration publication dated April 1987, to show the actual location of the duty station for the position. (*The Location Code is an OPM Central Personnel Data File [CPDF] requirement to be entered on the SF 52 and SF 50 for certain personnel actions.*)

Q. What does an agency enter in the "Geographic Location" block when it is unsure of the duty station to which the individual will be assigned?

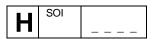
A. Leave it blank.

F	Position Title	ion	

Enter the title of the position for which the investigation is requested. If the person being investigated is a contractor employee, enter either the person's position with the contractor company, or CONTRACTOR.



Enter the 4-character SON; if the Security Office is the Submitting Office, enter the SOI. (Both SON and SOI codes are issued by OPM-FIPC; contact FIPC's Program Services Office (FIPC-PSO) for assistance.



Enter the 4-character SOI. Submitting Offices should contact their Security Office for the correct SOI.

OPAC-ALC	
Number	

Enter your agency's ALC (Agency Locator Code) assigned by the Department of the Treasury for use in the OPAC (On-Line Payment and Collection) billing system. This must be completed on all requests. If you do not have an OPAC-ALC number, contact FIPC-PSO. BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT ALC FOR YOUR AGENCY AND OFFICE TO BE BILLED FOR THE INVESTIGATION.

Q. What if an agency does not use the OPAC system?

A. FIPC-PSO will assign a code to cause manual billing from OPM.

Q. Who receives the billing information in an agency?

A. Billing information is sent to the OPAC-ALC address (the agency's Financial Management Office). If you receive information that bills are not being mailed to the proper address, or you are not receiving timely or correct billing information, contact FIPC-PSO for assistance.

|--|

This block is for your agency's internal use. Up to 25 characters may be entered in this block. (*The information you enter will be printed on the Investigation Scheduled Notice and on documents used to close the case and bill your agency.*) If your agency does not need this space, leave the block blank.

1/	Requesting	Name and Title	Signature	Telephone Number	Date
K	Official			()	

Enter the name, title, and signature of the official requesting the investigation; enter their commercial telephone number, including area code, and the date. (*OPM-FIPC will call this person if there are questions about the submission. This signature indicates an agency's obligation to pay OPM for investigative services; no other procurement document is necessary.*)

Q. Does the "Requesting Official" block have to contain an original signature? Must the signer be from the SON?

A. Block K must contain the signature of someone in the SON who is authorized by the agency to request investigations. The signature does not have to be original; a stamp or copy is sufficient.

Q. Whom will OPM-FIPC call with questions about case papers before scheduling a case?

A. OPM-FIPC will call the individual shown in block K.

Q. What if the requesting official should not be contacted for inquiries?

A. If you want to provide additional names and numbers for inquiry, this information should be recorded here as well. The blocks are not big; you may have to use very clear, very small print. You should call FIPC-PSO to discuss alternatives.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SF 85P and SF 86 "AGENCY USE ONLY" BLOCK (Unless otherwise noted, instructions are the same for both forms.)

Α	Type of Investigation	
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Using the chart below, enter the appropriate 3-character code that represents the type of investigation and timeliness service requested. (See the OPM-IS Federal Investigations Notice issued annually for the cost of each case type and timeliness service.)

Type of Investigation	35-Day Service	75-Day Service	120-Day Service	Reopen * Service
NACI		02B		02D
NAC	06A			06D
NACLC	08A	08B		08D
ANACI	09A	09B		09D
PRI			11C	11D
PRIR			12C	12D
MBI			15C	15D
SSBI-PR			18C	18D
LBI	20A	20B	20C	20D
LBI Update (LDI) *	21A	21B	21C	21D
LBI Upgrade (LGI) *	36A	36B	36C	36D
BI	25A	25B	25C	25D
BI Update (BDI) *	26A	26B	26C	26D
BI Upgrade (BGI) *	37A	37B	37C	37D
SSBI	30A	30B	30C	30D
SSBI Update (SDI) *	31A	31B	31C	31D
SSBI Upgrade (SGI) *	38A	38B	38C	38D

* DEFINITIONS:

Reopen: Clarification of issues in a case, or to reopen a discontinued case, within 12 months of the closing date of the previous OPM investigation. When requesting reopen service, contact OPM-FIPC for instructions.

Update Investigation (DI): Investigation of the same type updated from the previous investigation's closing date.

Upgrade Investigation (GI): Investigation for movement upward in sensitivity or risk level within 60 months after the previous investigation's closing date; for example, a BGI upgrades an LBI (3 years) to a BI (5 years).

Q. How does an agency change the timeliness service of a case in process?

A. An SOI may do this on an already-scheduled case by calling FIPC Telephone Liaison.

Q. Which Questionnaire is used and how are case papers coded when a position requires Confidential or Secret access and a BI is needed due to High Risk public trust duties?

A. If access is required, the SF 86 is required. Since the position requires a BI due to High Risk Public trust duties, Block **A** is coded for a BI (codes 25A, 25B, or 25C). Block **C** (Sensitivity Level) is coded 2 for Noncritical-Sensitive, and Block **D** (Access) is coded 1 for Confidential or 2 for Secret.

	3	Extra Coverage	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_		B Extra Coverage
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Using the chart below, enter the number or letter codes that represent the types of extra investigative coverage desired. Availability:

O = Optional Coverage **F** = Optional Coverage, additional fee charged

			Extra	Covera	ige Code	S (1 throu	gh 7 & A t	hrough Y)		
Type of Investigation	Over- seas	2 Credit	Advance NAC	Mgr/ Spvy	Public Contact	Law Enforce- ment	Attach- ments	A – Y Contact FIPC	Rein- vesti- gation	Z Criminal Justice Position
NACI		F	0				0		0	0
NAC		F	0				0		0	0
NACLC			0				0	0		0
ANACI			0				0	0	0	0
PRI/R			0				0		0	0
SSBI-PR	F		0				0		0	0
MBI			0				0	0	0	0
LBI	F		0	F	F	F	0	0	0	0
BI	F		0	F	F	F	0	0	0	0
SSBI	F		0	F	F	F	0	0	0	0

Code 1, Overseas attributes Subject and spouse, as required, addressed in interviews.*

Code 2, Credit Automated scheduling of credit. An additional fee is charged for an optional credit check.

Code 3, Advance NAC The advance on the National Agency Check (NAC) consists of an itemized list of the NAC results and search status. This is a notification of item results only, no hardcopy is furnished. The Advance NAC Report is sent to the SOI and is available for all case types. If after 30 days from the scheduling date the NAC is not complete, a NAC status report will be generated to provide the SOI information on the NAC.

Code 4, Managerial and Supervisory attributes *

Code 5, Public Contact attributes *

Code 6, Law Enforcement attributes *

* Codes **1, 4, 5**, and **6** print instructions to the Investigators on the Case Assignment Transmittal (CAT) to provide additional coverage. The extra coverage is specified in the OPM Investigator's Handbook. A surcharge is added to the case cost for *each* Code **1, 4, 5**, or 6 extra coverage request.

Code 7, Attachments This code is used when information is attached – e.g.: request for license or certificate verification; issue information; personnel folder or security file information; people in the U.S. who can verify activities outside the United States; agency-conducted Subject interview or pre-appointment checks; and, any other pertinent information.

[Codes A - Y Used only by agreement with OPM-FIPC]

Code Z FBI User Fee exemption for specific positions. See page 31 for detailed information.

Q. Do extra coverage codes have to be in a particular order?

A. No, the codes may be entered in any order.

Q. Does extra coverage code 1 pertain to coverage of foreign activities?

A. No, extra coverage code 1 is used to request the "overseas attributes" questions as listed in the OPM Investigator's Handbook. Code 1 is requested when an individual is going on a foreign assignment. The questions are to assess an individual's potential for foreign assignment, not to obtain investigative coverage of previous activities outside the United States.

Q. Where can the extra coverage questions for codes 4, 5, and 6 be found?

A. The questions appear in the OPM Investigator's Handbook which has been given to agency security offices.

Q. Can I request multiple extra coverage questions (codes 1, 4, 5, and 6)?

A. Yes. There is an additional fee for each code category. Contact your Appraisal/Assistance Officer at OPM-IS for more information.

Q. In requesting more than the minimum periodic reinvestigation (NACLC) needed for an employee's position, what steps must an agency take to indicate that the request is for reinvestigation?

A. The letter "R" should be entered in block B to prevent the automated system from rejecting the case. This will allow scheduling of the case requested.

Q. What are the advance NAC processing procedures?

A. An advance NAC report is available by entering code 3 into Extra Coverage block B of the SF 85P, or SF 86. Generally within 30 days of the scheduling of a case, either an advance NAC report or NAC status report will be sent to the SOI.

Q. If an agency requires a change in clearance on an investigation already requested, what should be done?

A. Contact FIPC Telephone Liaison and explain the change. If the investigation is still in process, the case type can be changed and billing will be adjusted as appropriate. If the investigation is completed, and the Subject's clearance is rising from Confidential/Secret/L to Top Secret/SCI/Q, the agency should request an SSBI (or an SGI if the completed case was a BI).

Q. Should the case papers indicate attendance at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) at Glynco, GA, Marana, AZ, or Artesia, NM?

A. Yes. In completing the case papers, the agency should attach information that indicates attendance dates or future dates at FLETC. The submitting office should ensure that code 7 is entered in block B of the SF 85P or SF 86 and that the information is included. A suggested format for this is given in FIN 94-4 of February 16, 1994. This information is necessary to avoid unusual delay in conducting the Personal Subject Interview in cases. Security Offices should ensure that this information has been passed on to appropriate components within the agency.

Q. When agencies request an SF 86 SSBI for SCI access, can OPM send a copy of the case to the CIA at the same time the case is sent to the requesting agency?

A. Yes. To do this, the agency should enter code 7 in block B and request on an attached document that a copy of the case be sent to the CIA.

For either form below, enter the code representing the sensitivity or risk level of the position requiring the investigation:



SF 85P:

C Sensitivity/Risk Level

CODE: LEVEL
1 Low Risk
5 Moderate Risk
6 High Risk



SF 86:

C	Sensitivity Level	

CODE: LEVEL

Noncritical-SensitiveCritical-SensitiveSpecial-Sensitive

On the SF 86, add the letter C for a Computer-ADP position.

Q. How does the SON determine the sensitivity/risk level of a position? How should the SF 85P/86 be completed when the risk/sensitivity level/access are unknown to the SON?

A. The SON should obtain the sensitivity/risk level from the SOI.

Q. How does the SOI (Security Office) determine the sensitivity/risk level of a position?

A. OPM issues definitions of the various levels in 5 CFR 731, Suitability, and 5 CFR 732, National Security. Supplemental guidance provides information about how to determine the sensitivity/risk level for a specific position, and how to establish a system for an agency. Contact your OPM-IS Security Appraisal/Assistance Officer for the supplemental guidance or other assistance.

Q. What is entered for SF 86 "Sensitivity Level" or SF 85P "Risk Level" (block C) for individuals who are not Federal employees?

A. The agency should designate the Sensitivity Level or the Public Trust Risk Level of the position as if the individual were a Federal employee.

Q. What is a Low Risk computer position? As most positions involve computer use, it is not clear which are to be designated under Computer/ADP criteria.

A. Any position that includes duties and responsibilities related to the organized collection, processing, transmission, or dissemination of information in accordance with defined procedures by automated means is a Computer/ADP position. Any such position not meeting the criteria for High or Moderate Risk, is a Low Risk Computer/ADP position. Contact your OPM-IS Appraisal and Assistance Officer for additional information.

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On the SF 85P, enter the code C if the position is Computer-ADP.

SF 86:

D	Access	

On the SF 86, using the table below, enter the code representing the security clearance or access the position requires (or will require).

CODE	LEVEL
0	Not required
1	Confidential
2	Secret
3	Top Secret
4	Sensitive Compartmented Information
5	Q
7	L
8	Other (specify clearance level on an attached document and enter "7" in Extra Coverage block B)

Q. How should an agency handle a situation involving multiple clearances/access when completing block D of the SF 86?

A. The highest clearance being requested for the Subject should be entered.

Ε	Nature of Action Code	
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For either form, if the person being investigated is a Federal employee or applicant, enter the same 3-digit code used on the SF 52 representing the "Nature of Action" taken or to be taken for the position requiring the investigation. If the person being investigated is a contractor, enter CON.

Q. What should be entered in SF 86 "Nature of Action Code" (block E) when investigation (or reinvestigation) is requested due to adding access to a current position?

A. In this instance, the "Nature of Action Code" block is left blank. In reinvestigations, both the "Nature of Action Code" and "Date of Action" blocks are left blank if there has been no personnel action.

Date of	Month	Day	Year
Action			

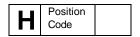
Enter the effective date of the action requiring the investigation. If the action has not been taken, leave the block blank.

G	Geographic Location	_					-
---	------------------------	---	--	--	--	--	---

OPTIONAL: Enter the 9-digit "Worldwide Geographic Location Code" from the General Services Administration publication dated April 1987, to show the actual location of the duty station for the position. (The Location Code is an OPM Central Personnel Data File [CPDF] requirement to be entered on the SF 52 and SF 50 for certain personnel actions.)

Q. What does an agency enter in the "Geographic Location" block when it is unsure of the duty station to which the individual will be assigned?

A. Leave it blank.



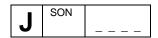
Enter the appropriate code letter from the table below. If none applies, leave the block blank. You may contact your Security Appraisal Officer for information about additional codes available by special agreement with OPM.

CODE POSITION

- A Congressional Staff
- B Investigator
- C Astronaut
- E White House
- F SES/GS-15 (or equivalent)
- G Special or Confidential Assistant (GS-13 and above)
- Child Care Provider (For child care investigations only; contact FIPC-PSO for additional information)

	Position Title	
-		

Enter the title of the position for which the investigation is being requested. If the person being investigated is a contractor employee, enter either the person's position with the contractor company, or CONTRACTOR.



Enter the 4-character SON; if the Security Office is the Submitting Office, enter the SOI. If SON is unknown, contact your Security Office or FIPC-PSO.

Ī	1/	Location of Offi-	None	Other Address	ZIP Code
	N	cial Personnel	NPRC		
		Folder	At SON		

Check one box only:

None, if the person has never been a Federal employee.

NPRC, if the OPF is at the National Personnel Records Center.

At SON, if the OPF is at the SON.

...or...

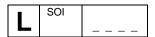
Other Address: If the OPF is at any other location (for example, the SOI), furnish the complete address.

Q. When unsure where an OPF is located, how should an agency indicate that fact?

A. The agency should make every effort to determine the location of the OPF. If all attempts are still unsuccessful, show UNKNOWN in "Other Address" block.

Q. If the SOI is the submitting office, should the address be filled out for "Location of OPF" (block K) rather than marking the "SON" box within that block?

A. If the SOI is the SON and the OPF is at that location, then "At SON" is appropriate. If the SOI is the SON, but the OPF is located elsewhere, then the "Other Address" should be shown.



Enter the 4-character SOI. Submitting Offices should contact the Security Office for the correct SOI.

R./	Location	None	Other Address	ZIP Code
M	of Security	At SO		
	Folder	NPI		

Check one box only:

None, if there is no security file at your agency.

At SOI, if there is a security file at your SOI address.

NPI, if there is a security file at your agency, but it contains nothing pertinent to the investigation. ... *or*...

Other Address: If your agency's security file is at a location other than the SOI address, furnish the complete address.

Q. How do I ensure that the Security File is reviewed by an Investigator?

A. In cases involving investigative field work, insert the numeral '5' in the "Codes" block, immediately above the Agency Use Only section on the Standard Forms.

N	OPAC-ALC	
IA	Number	

Enter your agency's ALC (Agency Locator Code) assigned by the Department of the Treasury for use in the OPAC (On-Line Payment and Collection) billing system. This must be completed on all requests. If you do not have an OPAC-ALC number, contact OPM-FIPC. BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT ALC FOR YOUR AGENCY AND OFFICE TO BE BILLED FOR THE INVESTIGATION.

Q. Who receives the billing information in an agency?

A. Billing information is sent to the OPAC-ALC address (the agency's Financial Management Office). If you receive information that bills are not being mailed to the proper address, or you are not receiving timely or correct billing information, contact FIPC-PSO for assistance.

Q. What if an agency doesn't use the Treasury OPAC-ALC system?

A. FIPC-PSO will assign your agency a code; this code triggers manual (rather than automated) billing.

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This block is for your agency's internal use. Up to 25 characters may be entered in this block. (*The information you enter will be printed on the Investigation Scheduled Notice and on documents used to close the case and bill your agency.*) If your agency does not need this space, leave the block blank.

В	Requesting	Name and Title	Signature	Telephone Number	Date
	Official			()	

Enter the name, title, and signature of the official requesting investigation; enter their commercial telephone number, including area code, and the date. (*OPM-FIPC will call this person if there are questions about the submission. This signature indicates an agency's obligation to pay OPM for investigative services; no other procurement document is necessary.*)

Q. Does the "Requesting Official" block have to contain an original signature? Must the signer be from the SON?

A. Block P must contain the signature of someone in the SON who is authorized by the agency to request investigations. The signature does not have to be original; a stamp or copy is sufficient.

Q. Whom will OPM-FIPC call with questions about case papers before scheduling a case?

A. OPM-FIPC will call the individual shown in block P.

Q. What if the requesting official should not be contacted for inquiries?

A. If you want to provide additional names and numbers for inquiry, record them here as well. You may have to use very clear, very small print. You may call FIPC-PSO to discuss alternatives.

B. SECURITY OFFICE PROCEDURES

PROCESSING INVESTIGATIONS

A Security Office is responsible for receiving completed investigation reports from OPM and controlling the cases for the agency. Designated Security Office employees may contact OPM-FIPC to obtain detailed information about a case. The Security Office is also responsible for processing and completing a variety of investigative forms.

SECURITY OFFICE IDENTIFIER (SOI)

Each agency Security Office is issued a 4-character identifier, called an SOI. It is assigned by FIPC-PSO and is used to identify the proper agency officials to receive case results, data, or information from OPM. The SOI permits OPM to send cases to agency-approved addresses and it permits agencies to obtain detailed investigative information. If your agency does not have an SOI, contact OPM-FIPC. (Use form PIPS 11, available from FIPC Telephone Liaison or PSO, to update Security Office information for OPM.)

CASE CLOSING TRANSMITTAL (CCT)

The CCT provides the Security Office with a summary of investigated activities and results, and indicates one of the following closing actions:

- Closed-Complete: Provides results of a fully completed case.
- Closed-Pending: Provides an interim package of completed portions of a case except for a pending record or NAC item that has been delayed. A Closed-Complete action will be sent when the pending pieces are completed.

Q. What should an SON do when the SOI sends the CCT, Report of Agency Adjudicative Action, or other case papers to the SON?

A. Unless there is an agreement with OPM-IS for handling this information at the SON, it should return case papers to the SOI. One exception is the Certification of Investigation which should be filed on the permanent side of the Official Personnel Folder after it has been completed by the SOI.

INVESTIGATION NOTICES

OPM sends notices to the Security or Submitting Office about cases in process. Each notice includes the name of the agency requesting the investigation, the type and timeliness service of investigation, OPM case number, the name of the Subject of investigation, and the Subject's SSN and DOB. Agencies may receive these notices by mail, or electronically to be printed at the SOI or uploaded into an SOI's database.

An **Investigation Scheduled Notice** is sent to the Submitting Office to verify that the requested investigation has been scheduled by OPM. This notice is filed on the temporary side of the OPF. (*Agencies should notify FIPC Telephone Liaison if there is a question about this notice*.)

An **Administrative Return Notice** is sent to the Submitting Office returning case papers when the type of investigation requested is inconsistent with Sensitivity/Access information in the "Agency Use Only" block. The investigation has not been initiated, so the notice must be returned to OPM-FIPC with the corrected case papers as soon as possible. Contact FIPC Telephone Liaison for clarification.

An **Unacceptable Case Notice** is sent to the Submitting Office to return case papers not completed correctly or missing essential information about the person to be investigated. The investigation has not been initiated, so the notice must be returned to OPM-FIPC with the corrected case papers as soon as possible.

A **Case in Process Notice** is sent to a Submitting Office when an investigation meeting or exceeding requirements of the requested investigation is already in process. If the case in process was requested by the same SON, it indicates that the second request was a duplicate. If the case in process is for another agency's SOI, a copy of the case will be sent to the second requestor's SOI when it is completed.

A **Closed-Discontinued Notice** is sent to the Security Office when the case has been discontinued at agency request. The notice should be forwarded by the Security Office to the Submitting Office for filing on the permanent side of the OPF.

A **Closed-Incomplete Notice** is sent to the Security Office to return case papers when OPM-FIPC has not received a new fingerprint chart previously requested from the SON. The notice must be returned to us with the new fingerprint chart and the case papers. If the investigation is no longer required, the notice is sent by the Security Office to the Submitting Office for filing on the permanent side of the OPF.

A **Returned-Requirements Met Notice** is sent to the Security Office indicating that an investigation has recently been completed which meets requirements of the requested investigation. The request for investigation is returned, as no additional investigation is necessary, and a copy of the previous case, if any, is sent to the Security Office for adjudication. This notice is sent by the Security Office, after adjudication, to the Submitting Office for filing on the permanent side of the OPF.

A **Certification of Investigation** is sent to the Security Office with the CCT of cases Closed-Complete. The notice is completed and sent by the Security Office, after adjudication, to the Submitting Office for filing on the permanent side of the OPF.

Q. Does OPM track Receipts and Returns?

A. Yes; OPM can provide submitting and security offices with a monthly report that shows their agency's receipts and returns. Agencies may request these reports or change the frequency of the reports they get by calling FIPC-PSO or their Appraisal/Assistance Officer at OPM-IS.

Q. Is a Certification of Investigation Notice certified differently when the subject is removed on suitability?

A. No, there is no difference in how the Certification of Investigation Notice is completed. The removal would be documented on an SF 50 in the OPF.

Q. Can a duplicate copy of the Returned Unacceptable Notice be sent to the SOI?

A. Only one copy of the notice is sent. If the SOI needs a copy, it should request it from the SON.

OPM INVESTIGATIONS SERVICE FORMS

OFI-16A - Specific Release. This form is used by OPM to obtain specific medical, financial, or other information. Occasionally, OPM may ask the agency to have this form signed by the person being investigated and to return it to OPM.

OFI Form 79 - *Notice of Personnel Investigation.* This form is used by other Federal investigative agencies to notify OPM that an investigation is being initiated. This information is added to OPM's Security/Suitability Investigations Index (SII) and the investigative agency is sent results of an SII search. After adjudication, the agency is required to complete Part C of this form and return it to OPM-FIPC.

OFI Form 79A - Report of Agency Adjudicative Action on OPM Personnel Investigations. This form accompanies the CCT for certain Closed-Complete cases and in some instances must be returned to OPM-FIPC when the Security Office completes final action.

OFI Form 79B - Request for Search of OPM Records. This form provides the SOI with results of an OPM SII search and may require agency adjudicative action and notification to OPM-FIPC.

OFI Form 86 - Special Agreement Check (SAC). This form is used to request limited investigative checks for which there is a special agreement with OPM. Contact your Appraisal/Assistance Officer at OPM-IS for more inforation.

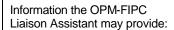
INV 50 - Agency Information for OPM Background Investigations. This form is included with the results of mailed closed cases and gives agencies information concerning procedures and documents associated with OPM background investigations.

SECURITY/SUITABILITY INVESTIGATIONS INDEX (SII) and CASE INQUIRIES

Each Security Office provides OPM with an official mailing address, contact information, and an approved list of employees authorized to request information about agency cases in process. This list should be updated regularly using IS form PIPS 11. (Contact FIPC-PSO to update information or to obtain the PIPS 11.) The approved persons are the only individuals who may receive information by telephone. A Security Office might call, for example, for a pre-placement SII search to determine if OPM has a record of the Subject, or to determine the current status of a scheduled investigation. The Security Office should call FIPC Telephone Liaison (724-794-5228) to request information.

Information the OPM-FIPC Liaison Assistant will ask for:

- Caller's SOI and other identifiers
- Subject's Name, SSN, Date & Place Of Birth
- OPM Case Number (for case status checks)



- Whether OPM has a record of the Subject
- If any investigation in OPM's system contains issues
- Types of issues in the case
- Current Case Status
- Investigative Items that are not complete
- Expected Completion Date of the investigation
- Results of NAC Searches
- Referral to Reviewer for more specific information

Telephone contact should also be made to cancel a case, change the case type or timeliness service, to obtain other data, or for general information.

Q. Can an SON obtain an SII search?

A. SII data is not available to the SON. Only the SOI can obtain an SII search.

Q. Is there a minimum level of investigation required for authorized SOI Users?

A. Agency security officers must have a BI (5-year background investigation). Other staff should have the same level of investigation as the cases they handle, or a level of investigation specified by any Special Agreement with OPM-IS. For SII access, the minimum level is ANACI, with NACLC reinvestigation every 10 years.

Q. How will an agency know if an Investigation was completed using the SF 86 or SF 85P?

A. The SII currently records which investigative form was used for the investigation. This information will be provided to the agency upon request.

Q. What will SII have on file for no-issue cases?

A. SII will show the type of case, the date the case was closed, and that it contained no issues.

Q. Does OPM receive arrest information on individuals previously investigated?

A. When the FBI receives criminal fingerprints and has an indication that a previous background investigation was conducted by the Federal Government or that the Subject may be a Federal employee, the FBI furnishes a copy of the identification division record form (rap sheet) to OPM-FIPC. OPM-FIPC reviews the information and establishes if the individual is currently with a Federal agency. If so, it furnishes the SOI with a copy of the record and an OFI Form 79A characterizing the issue(s). OPM-FIPC records this information and the agency's action in the SII and maintains a case file.

AUTOMATED LINKAGE WITH OPM

OPM-IS maintains its investigative data and processes its cases through its automated Personnel Investigations Processing System (PIPS). Automated linkage between an agency SOI and PIPS provides direct access to OPM's records. An agency computer compatible with PIPS can replace mailed forms or the telephone inquiry process. With proper equipment, a Security Office can make on-line SII searches, request files, transmit messages, record OFI 79 notifications, enter Special Agreement Checks (SACs), and monitor the progress of the agency's cases. Other features include the capability to access security clearance information through the Clearance Verification System (CVS), and to print or download case status and report data. Planned additions include the ability to record case adjudications directly on PIPS and to search the Defense Clearance and Investigation Index (DCII) through OPM's system. Agencies interested in obtaining a PIPS connection must have a Security Office Identifier (SOI) assigned by OPM. For more information, or to request a PIPS connection, contact the Policy and Operations Division at IS Headquarters in Washington, DC, at (202) 606-1042.

C. FINGERPRINTING INFORMATION

Q. If an agency submits fingerprints to the FBI prior to requesting an OPM investigation, what special procedures must the agency follow?

A. Agencies with special agreements with OPM-IS for submitting fingerprints directly to the FBI, and which have the results of a fingerprint search that is less than 120 days old at the time an OPM investigation is requested, should enter extra coverage code "7" in block B. The FBI Identification Division record or fingerprint classification form must be attached to the case papers. If a fingerprint search was unclassifiable or completed more than 120 days prior to the request for investigation, a new fingerprint chart and the results of the previous check should be attached.

Q. What is the procedure for cases with unclassifiable fingerprints?

A. Investigative requirements are satisfied on Non-sensitive (SF 85) and Public Trust (SF 85P) positions once the original submission is characterized as unclassifiable by the FBI. Agencies have the option of submitting one reprint for classification within one year of OPM's closing the investigation without incurring additional cost. For National Security (SF 86) positions, OPM will continue to require a second fingerprint submission if the original was unclassifiable.

FINGERPRINT CHARTS ARE RETURNED MOST FREQUENTLY BECAUSE	TO CORRECT THESE COMMON PROBLEMS
Fingerprints were <i>not fully rolled</i> .	Roll fingers "nail to nail" to obtain a full print.
Fingerprints are smudged .	Use less ink; spread it more evenly; take care not to smudge charts after printing.
Fingerprints are <i>indistinct</i> .	Press fingers firmly when printing.
Physical <i>disabilities or skin problems</i> prevent clear prints.	Take prints and attach explanation to chart.
Subject identifying <i>information is incomplete</i> . Chart is <i>not signed</i> by the Subject and/or Official taking prints.	Remind the Subject of the necessity for information and <i>check for completion</i> of these blocks.

Q. What will OPM do if the agency sends two fingerprint charts with the initial request?

A. Only one chart is needed and should be sent with the request for investigation. If one chart is unclassifiable, it's likely that the second chart is also unclassifiable when the prints were taken by the same individual at the same time. When the original submission is returned unclassifiable by the FBI, OPM-FIPC contacts the agency for a second fingerprint submission. The second chart from the original investigation request will be held and not used.

There are currently three submission formats for fingerprints:

- Hardcard: May be ink or chemical method;
- Cardscan: Scanned image of a hardcard; and
- Live-Scan: Digital, paperless technology for capturing fingerprints.

Agencies may access the following web-site address to obtain information concerning the products certified for compliance by the FBI:

www.fbi.gov/programs/iafis/cert.htm

Keep in mind that with any of the scan systems, you need to reference the American National Standards Institute (ANSI/NIST-CSL) for the data format of interchange for fingerprint information.

For additional information, call the FBI at (202) 324-9341 or (301) 975-2932.

Agencies interested in electronically transmitting Live-Scan fingerprints directly to FIPC for processing should coordinate planning with FIPC-PSO prior to an equipment purchase.



OPM does not endorse any particular Live-Scan vendor; however, we believe that the proper use of this technology, if coordinated with PIPS processing capabilities, significantly improves classification rates as well as overall case processing timeliness. Call FIPC-PSO at 724-794-5612 for additional information.

SECTION 2.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Nice To Know. But not in Section 1

NACI INVESTIGATIONS

- All NACI inquiry forms containing potentially actionable issue information will be sent to the SOI (Security Office), attached to the CCT.
- OPM discontinues a NACI when the requesting agency SON or SOI contacts OPM-FIPC by telephone or in writing to discontinue the case.
- In no-issue cases that have no investigative reports (e.g., NACIs and NACLCs), only summary information is retained by OPM in its automated system. The summary shows the case type, when it was closed, where inquiries were sent, and whether they were completed, returned as undeliverable, or not returned. Only inquiries with issue information and no-issue inquiries with favorable information or comments beyond the basic questions will be retained by OPM. Other investigative material, such as a previous case file, will be reviewed. If appropriate, it will be attached and will become part of the current case file.
- Straggler inquiries (those arriving after cases are Closed-Complete) will be reviewed. If "acceptable," they will not be sent to the SOI. Inquiries with issues will be sent to agency security offices and additional investigation will be conducted if required.
- For NACIs, the case will be closed when the NAC items (SII, DCII, FBI name check, and FBI fingerprint check) are completed and either all inquiries are completed or 30 days have passed since the case was scheduled. The CCT will indicate to the requesting office where inquiries were sent, and which were returned. Also, the CCT will show whether an inquiry was returned as undeliverable, or not returned.
- OPM routinely resolves issues considered to be recent and serious, i.e., actionable under OPM suitability guidelines. If an agency receives a NACI case in which it appears actionable issues have not been resolved, and the agency anticipates taking action on the case, the agency may obtain the needed information themselves by telephone inquiry, correspondence, or Subject contact, as appropriate. The agency may also send the case back to OPM-FIPC (attn: SAS) and request that OPM conduct further action to obtain the necessary information.

REIMBURSABLE SUITABILITY INVESTIGATIONS

When an agency wants to request a Reimbursable Suitability Investigation (RSI) to expand on issues developed but not resolved in an investigation, or to investigate issues developed by the agency, it should submit a memorandum detailing the basis for the request and any pertinent information to OPM-FIPC. You must include Subject identifiers (Name, DOB, POB, SSN), SOI or SON, and OPAC-ALC number.

CONTACT WITH CURRENT EMPLOYER

A request made on the application/resume to not contact the current employer is related to employment verification only in the application examining process. When the application/resume becomes part of the investigation case papers with an SF 85, SF 85P, or SF 86, all information will be

verified. These Standard Forms contain the statement, "Your current employer must be contacted as part of the investigation, even if you have previously indicated on applications or other forms that you do not want this."

FILE RELEASE AND DISSEMINATION

A copy of the SF 85, SF 85P, or SF 86 can be released to the Subject of investigation with all the "Agency Use Only" blocks completed.

OPM disseminates case files or information from previous investigations (1) to investigating agencies when they are conducting an investigation, (2) to any agency when pertinent to a current investigation or adjudication, and (3) under certain specific circumstances and conditions. For further information, call the Investigations Service's Freedom of Information/Privacy Services at FIPC (724-794-5612).

When a Subject of investigation asks an agency security office for a copy of their own investigative file, the agency should advise the Subject that OPM provides a copy of the file under a Privacy Act request. The individual must make a written request for the file to OPM-FIPC, FOI/PS, PO Box 618, Boyers, PA, 16018-0618. The request must include the Subject's Full Name, AKAs, SSN, DOB, POB, full address, location of present or former Federal employment (when applicable), and it must be signed by the requestor.

OPM will not release an investigation to the Subject until the agency has acknowledged receipt of the case and has not requested any additional investigative coverage or additional time to adjudicate the case. OPM notifies an agency's SOI of FOI/P requests and, unless FIPC is informed that extra time is needed, the investigation report is released in 30 days.

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

When the Subject of investigation has significant periods of recent activity (such as employment, education, or residence) in foreign countries, the SON should request that additional information be provided with the SF 85, SF 85P, or SF 86. The Subject should identify sources, preferably in the USA, who have personal knowledge of the foreign activities and should include addresses and telephone numbers of these sources.

DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION

Authority for OPM to investigate individuals ceases when a person is no longer being considered for employment or access. Call OPM-FIPC to discontinue an investigation. When the case is not discontinued, OPM spends time investigating someone who is not going to be cleared/hired, and this may have a negative effect on overall timeliness. If either the Subject or agency subsequently changes its mind, the case can be reopened by contacting OPM-FIPC.

PRE-CLOSING ADJUDICATION

If an agency decides that action can be taken based on information received from OPM prior to the investigation being closed (such as when a case is closed-pending awaiting a required-but-not-critical item), it should inform OPM that the balance of the case is not needed.

QUESTIONABLE ORGANIZATIONS

OPM does not maintain a list of questionable organizations. The FBI monitors domestic organizations under criteria set by the Attorney General. Agency Security Directors may contact the Counterterrorism Section in the Criminal Investigations Division of the FBI for additional information.



5-DIGIT ZIP CODES ARE TO BE USED IN COMPLETING SOURCE DOCUMENTS. 5-DIGIT ZIP CODES ARE IMPORTANT IN ALL ENTRIES.

THE CODES LISTED BELOW ARE FOR USE ONLY WHEN THE ZIP CODE IS NOT OBTAINABLE OR FOR EMPLOYMENTS AND RESIDENCES OUTSIDE THE COVERAGE PERIOD OF THE INVESTIGATION. USE THE CODE FOR THE CITY THAT IS NEAREST THE ADDRESS YOU ARE ENTERING ON THE FORM. (DO NOT USE THIS CHART WITH THE SF 85.)

ALABAMA		CALIFORNIA		GEORGIA		IOWA		MARYLAND	
Anniston	362	San Francisco	941	Albany	317	Mason City	504	Hyattsville	207
Birmingham	352	San Jose	951	Athens	306	Ottumwa	525	Mt. Airy	217
Dothan	363	San Luis		Atlanta	303	Sheldon	512	Salisbury	218
Evergreen	364	Obispo	934	Augusta	309	Sioux City	511	MASSACHUSET	TS
Gadsden	359	San Rafael	949	Columbus	319	Spencer	513	Boston	021
Huntsville	358	Santa Ana	927	Gainesville	305	Waterloo	507	Brockton	024
Mobile	366	Santa		Macon	312	KANSAS		Buzzards Bay	025
Montgomery	361	Barbara	931	Savannah	314	Colby	677	Framingham	017
Opelika	368	Santa Rosa	954	Swainsboro	304	Dodge City	678	Lynn	019
Selma	367	Stockton	952	Valdosta	316	Fort Scott	667	Pittsfield	012
Tuscaloosa	354	Van Nuys	914	Waycross	315	Hays	676	Springfield	011
<u>ALASKA</u>		Whittier	906	<u>HAWAII</u>		Hutchinson	675	Worcester	016
Anchorage	995	<u>COLORADO</u>		Honolulu	968	Independence	673	<u>MICHIGAN</u>	
Fairbanks	997	Alamosa	811	<u>IDAHO</u>		Kansas City	661	Detroit	842
Juneau	998	Brighton	806	Boise	837	Liberal	679	Flint	485
Ketchikan	999	Colorado		Lewiston	835	Salina	674	Gaylord	497
<u>ARIZONA</u>		Springs	809	Pocatello	832	Topeka	666	Grand Rapids	495
Flagstaff	860	Denver	802	Twin Falls	833	Wichita	672	Iron Mountain	498
Globe	855	Durango	813	<u>ILLINOIS</u>		<u>KENTUCKY</u>		Jackson	492
Kingman	864	Fort Morgan	807	Bloomington	617	Ashland	411	Kalamazoo	490
Phoenix	850	Glenwood		Carbondale	629	Bowling		Lansing	489
Prescott	863	Springs	816	Centralia	628	Green	421	Royal Oak	480
Show Low	859	Golden	804	Champaign	618	Campton	413	Saginaw	486
Tucson	857	Grand		Chicago	606	Corbin	407	Traverse City	496
<u>ARKANSAS</u>		Junction	815	Effingham	624	Elizabethtown	427	<u>MINNESOTA</u>	
Batesville	725	Longmont	805	Galesburg	614	Hazard	417	Bemidji	566
Camden	717	Montrose	814	Kankakee	609	Lexington	405	Brainerd	564
Fayetteville	727	Pueblo	810	La Salle	613	Louisville	402	Detroit Lakes	565
Fort Smith	729	Salida	812	Peoria	616	Owensboro	423	Duluth	558
Harrison	726	CONNECTICUT		Quincy	623	Paducah	420	Mankato	560
Hot Springs	719	Hartford	061	Rockford	611	Pikeville	415	Minneapolis	554
Jonesville	724	New Haven	065	Rock Island	612	Somerset	425	Rochester	559
Little Rock	722	New London	063	Springfield	627	<u>LOUISIANA</u>		St. Cloud	563
Pine Bluff	716	Stamford	069	INDIANA		Alexandria	713	St. Paul	551
Russellville	728	Waterbury	067	Bloomington	474	Baton Rouge	708	Thief River	
CALIFORNIA		Willimantic	062	Columbus	472	Hammond	704	Falls	567
Alhambra	918	DELAWARE	400	Evansville	477	Lafayette	705	Wilmar	562
Bakersfield	933	Wilmington	198	Fort Wayne	468	Lake Charles	706	Windom	561
Eureka	955	DIOT OF		Gary	464	Monroe	712	MISSISSIPPI	007
Fresno	937	DIST. OF	000	Indianapolis	462	New Orleans	701	Columbus	397
Inglewood	903	COLUMBIA	200	Kokomo	469	Shreveport	711	Greenville	387
Long Beach	908	EL ODIDA		Lafayette	479	Thibodaux	703	Grenada	389
Los Angeles	900	FLORIDA Ft. Marana	222	Muncie	473	MAINE	0.40	Gulfport	395
Marysville	959	Ft. Myers	339	South Bend	466	Auburn	042	Jackson	392
Mojave	935	Gainesville	326	Terre Haute	478	Augusta	043	Laurel	394
Oakland	946	Jacksonville	322	Washington	475	Bangor	044	McComb	396
Oxnard	930	Lakeland	338	<u>IOWA</u>	F00	Houlton	047	Meridian	393
Palm Springs	922	Miami	331	Burlington	526	Portland	041	Tupelo	388
Pasadena	911	Orlando	328	Carroll	514	Rockland	048	MISSOURI	
Redding	960	Panama City	324	Cedar Rapids	524	Waterville	049	Cape	007
Sacramento	958 939	Pensacola	325	Creston	508	MARYLAND Boltimore	242	Girardeau	637
Salinas	939	Tallahassee	323	Decorah	521	Baltimore	212	Chillicothe	646
San Bernar-	004	Tampa	336	Des Moines	503	Cumberland	215	Flat River	636
Dino	924 921	West Palm	224	Dubuque	520	Easton	216	Hannibal	634
San Diego	921	Beach	334	Fort Dodge	505	Frederick	217	Harrisonville	647

MISSOURI		NEW MEXICO		OKLAHOMA		TENNESSEE		VIRGINIA	
Jeff. City 6	351	Socorro	878	Ardmore	734	Chattanooga	374	Pulaski	243
	348	Truth or Con-		Clinton	736	Columbia	384	Richmond	232
,	641	Sequences	879	Durant	747	Cookeville	385	Roanoke	240
	35	Tucumcari	884	Enid	737	Jackson	383	Winchester	226
•		NEW YORK		Lawton	735	Johnson City	376	WASHINGTO	
		Albany	122	McAlester	745	Knoxville	379	Everett	982
•		Binghamton	139	Muskogee	744	McKenzie	382	Olympia	985
		Bronx	104	Oklahoma	704	Memphis	381	Pasco	993
		Brooklyn Buffalo	112 142	City Ponca City	731 746	Nashville	372	Seattle	981 992
		Elmira	142	Poteau	749	<u>TEXAS</u> Abilene	796	Spokane Tacoma	984
Springfield 6	556	Glens Falls	128	Shawnee	748	Amarillo	790 791	Wenatchee	988
	591	Hicksville	118	Tulsa	741	Austin	787	Yakima	989
	597	Jamestown	147	Woodward	738	Beaumont	777	WEST VIRGIN	
		Kingston	124	OREGON	100	Bryan	778	Beckley	258
		Monticello	127	Bend	977	Childress	792	Bluefield	247
		New York	100	Eugene	974	Conroe	773	Buckhannon	262
		Plattsburgh	129	Klamath Falls	976	Corpus Christi	784	Charleston	253
•		Poughkeepsie	126	Medford	975	Dallas	752	Clarksburg	263
•	598	Queens	110	Pendleton	978	Denton	762	Gassaway	266
Wolf Point 5	592	Riverhead	119	Portland	972	El Paso	799	Huntington	257
NEBRASKA		Rochester	146	Salem	973	Forth Worth	761	Lewisburg	249
Alliance 6	93	Staten Island	103	PENNSYLVAN	<u>IIA</u>	Greenville	754	Martinsburg	254
Columbus 6	886	Suffern	109	Altoona	166	Houston	770	Parkersburg	261
Grand Island 6	886	Syracuse	132	Bradford	167	Longview	756	Petersburg	268
Hastings 6	89	Utica	135	Butler	160	Lubbock	794	Wheeling	260
Lincoln 6	85	Watertown	136	Du Bois	158	Lufkin	759	WISCONSIN	
McCook 6	90	White Plains	106	Erie	165	McAllen	785	Eau Claire	547
Norfolk 6	87	<u>NORTH</u>		Greensburg	156	Midland	797	Green Bay	543
	91	<u>CAROLINA</u>		Harrisburg	171	Palestine	758	La Crosse	546
	81	Ashville	288	Indiana	157	San Antonio	782	Madison	537
	92	Charlotte	282	Johnstown	159	Texarkana	755	Milwaukee	532
<u>NEVADA</u>		Fayetteville	283	Lancaster	176	Tyler	757	Oshkosh	549
		Greensboro	274	Lehigh Valley	180	Victoria	779	Portage	539
,		Hickory	286	New Castle	161	Waco	767	Rhinelander	545
U		Kinston	285	Oil City	163	Wichita Falls	763	Spooner	548
		Leicester	287	Philadelphia	191	UTAH	044	Wausau	544
NEW HAMPSH		•	276	Pittsburgh	152	Ogden	844	WYOMING	000
)33	Rocky Mount	278	Pottsville	179	Provo	846	Casper	826
		NORTH DAKOTA	-	Reading	196	Salt Lake City	841	Cheyenne	820
		Bismarck	585	Scranton	185	VERMONT Pollowa Follo	051	Gillette	827
)31)38	Devils Lake Dickinson	583 586	State College	168 154	Bellows Falls	051 052	Rawlins	823 825
	130	Fargo	581	Uniontown	153	Bennington Brattleboro	052	Riverton Rock Springs	829
NEW JERSEY Atlantic City 0	184	Grand Forks	582	Washington Wellsboro	169	Burlington	053	Sherldan	828
•		Jamestown	584	Wilkes Barre	187	Montpeller	056	Wheatland	822
Hackensack 0		Minot	587	Williamsport	177	Rutland	057	Worland	824
)71	Williston	588	RHODE ISLAN		Saint	001	AGANA,	021
New		OHIO	000	Providence	029	Johnsbury	058	GUAM	969
		Akron	443	SOUTH		White River		PUERTO RICO	
		Athens	457	CAROLINA		Junction	050	San Juan	009
		Canton	447	Charleston	294	VIRGINIA		VIRGIN	
		Chillicothe	456	Columbia	292	Alexandria	223	ISLANDS	800
Summitt 0	79	Cincinnati	452	Florence	295	Arlington	222	<u> </u>	
Trenton 0)86	Cleveland	441	Greenville	296	Bristol	242		\neg
NEW MEXICO		Columbus	432	SOUTH DAKO	<u>TA</u>	Charlottesville	229		_
Albuquerque 8	371	Dayton	454	Aberdeen	574	Culpeper	227		7
		Lima	458	Mitchell	573	Farmville	239	* * * * * *	i, [
	881	Mansfield	449	Mobridge	576	Fredericksburg	224	1	
•		Steubenville	439	Pierre	575	Harrisonburg	228		_
•		Toledo	436	Rapid City	577	Lynchburg	245		
		Youngstown	445	Sioux Falls	571	Norfolk	235		
•		Zanesville	437	Watertown	572	Petersburg	238		
	382								
Santa Fe 8	375								

FOR SF 85 OR SF 86 "Extra Coverage" BLOCK (See pages 12 and 16)

B	Extra	
D	Coverage	

Code Z – Criminal Justice Position – FBI user fee exemption.

The FBI charges user fees for processing Federal fingerprint and name search requests that are not specifically for criminal justice or law enforcement purposes. OPM must pass these costs along to agencies.

When an agency SOI or component is not exempt from the fees, but a specific position (as listed in $\hat{\mathbf{I}}$ below) is exempt, the SON must place code Z in Block B to obtain an exemption from the fees.

The following SOIs are	exempt.
Courts	Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts U.S. Court of International Trade U.S. Supreme Court U.S. Tax Court
Defense	Office of the Inspector General
Interior	Office of the Inspector General
Justice	Bureau of Prisons Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration U.S. Marshals Service
ОРМ	Office of Administrative Law Judges
Treasury	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Federal Law Enforcement Training Center U.S. Customs Service U.S. Secret Service
TVA	Office of the Inspector General
The following compone	ents of agency SOIs are exempt:
IRS	Criminal Investigations Division Internal Security Division
Navy	Naval Investigative Service
All Agencies	Office of the Inspector General submitted as a component of an agency SOI
The following General S	Schedule (GS) specific positions are exempt:
GS-007 GS-082 GS-083 GS-1169 GS-1811 GS-1854 GS-1884 GS-1890 GS-1896	Correctional Officer U.S. Marshal Police Internal Revenue Officer Criminal Investigator Immigration Inspector Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Inspector Customs Patrol Officer Customs Inspector Border Patrol Agent
	GM and SES in the same occupational groups and series are also exempt.

Contractor positions are not exempt.

Questions about exemptions should be directed to FIPC-PSO at 724-794-5612.

NOTES