

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION IN ARMED AND UNARMED PRIVATE SECURITY APPLICATIONS: HEALTH BOARD ASSESSMENT AND OUTCOMES

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BACKGROUND AND AIM: According to the Regulation on the Implementation of the Law on Private Security Services, candidates applying for armed or unarmed private security positions are required to obtain a medical board report, including a psychiatric evaluation, stating that they are fit to work as private security officers. Psychiatric assessment is essential to ensure individual suitability and public safety. This study aimed to describe the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of applicants, compare approved and rejected outcomes, and identify factors associated with negative medical board decisions.

METHODS: (Ethics Committee Approval must be obtained and the number should be specified). This retrospective study included 133 individuals who applied to Karabük Training and Research Hospital between October 1 and December 31, 2025, for a private security officer certificate. Data were obtained from the hospital information system.

Ethical approval was granted by the Karabük University Non-Interventional Clinical Research Ethics Committee (Application No: 2026/2707).

RESULTS: The median age of applicants was 23 years (range: 18–45), and 53.4% were female. Most were high school (54.1%) or university (43.6%) graduates, and 83.5% were single. More than half (55.6%) were employed. A psychiatric disorder within the previous two years was identified in 4.5% of cases. Alcohol use was reported by 1.5%, and a history of judicial or administrative incidents by 3.0%, with no history of substance use or suicide attempts. The Hacettepe Personality Inventory was valid in 99.2% of evaluations. Overall, 92.5% of applications were approved and 7.5% were rejected. Male gender was significantly associated with a negative outcome (OR = 5.11; 95% CI: 1.04–25.06; $p = 0.045$), and a recent psychiatric history was a strong predictor of rejection ($p < 0.001$).

CONCLUSIONS: Male gender and recent psychiatric illness were significantly associated with negative medical board decisions, highlighting the importance of systematic psychiatric evaluation and assessment of recent psychiatric history in private security officer applications.

Keywords: Private security, medical board, sociodemographic characteristics, Hacettepe personality inventory