Justification for ATF Form 4473 change

In the wake of the VA Tech tragedy, ATF believes it is essential to clarify certain language on the ATF Form 4473. Specifically, the language pertaining to "mentally defective" individuals in question 11(f) under Section A was refined to clarify the categories of prohibited individuals and to more closely align the question with the regulatory definitions outlined in 27 CFR 478.11.

In addition, "Adjudicated as a mental defective" and "Committed to a mental institution" has been added as #5 and #6 to the "Definitions" section of the ATF Form 4473. These definitions are defined in 27 CFR 478.11 and have been expressed verbatim from the regulation.

It is important to note these revisions in no way provide additional burden to Federal firearms licensees or purchasers of firearms.